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Charles Hudson

ABSTRACT

HISTORY OF HUDSON RIVER

FIRST SETTLEMENT

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE
NEW NATION'S INDEPENDENCE

JULY 4, 1876.

BY CHARLES H. HENRY

WITH THE ACTION AND THE SPIRIT OF THE
THE ONLY ONE

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Abraham Lincoln

ABSTRACT

OF THE

HISTORY OF HUDSON, MASS.

FROM ITS

FIRST SETTLEMENT

TO THE

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF
OUR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE,

JULY 4, 1876.

BY CHARLES HUDSON.

WITH THE ACTION OF THE TOWN, AND THE PROCEEDINGS AT
THE CELEBRATION.

PUBLISHED BY VOTE OF THE TOWN.

1877.



PROCLAMATION.

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. A PROCLAMATION.

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Whereas, A Joint Resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States was duly approved on the thirteenth day of March last, which Resolution is as follows :

“ Be it Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that it be and is hereby recommended by the Senate and the House of Representatives, to the People of the several States, that they assemble in their several counties or towns, on the approaching Centennial Anniversary of our National Independence, and that they cause to have delivered on such day an Historical Sketch of said county or town, from its formation ; and that a copy of said sketch may be filed, in print or manuscript, in the Clerk's office of said county, and an additional copy in print or manuscript be filed in the office of the Librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the first Centennial of their existence : ”

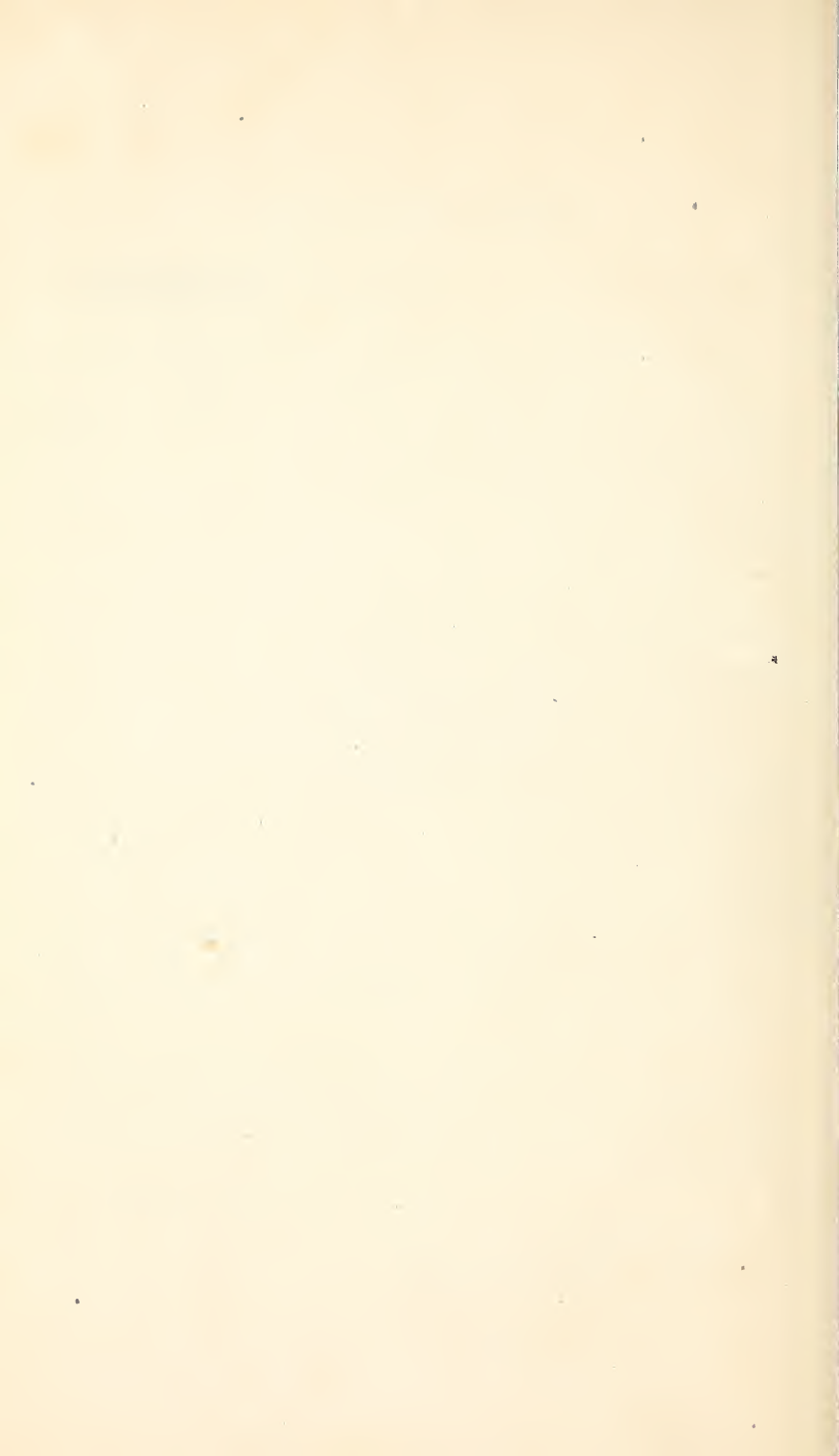
And Whereas, It is deemed proper that such recommendation be brought to the notice and knowledge of the People of the United States, Now, therefore, I, ULYSSES S. GRANT, President of the United States, do hereby declare and make known the same, in the hope that the object of such Resolution may meet the approval of the People of the United States, and that proper steps may be taken to carry the same into execution.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the twenty-fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six, and of the independence of the United States the one hundredth.

U. S. GRANT.

By the President.

HAMILTON FISH, *Secretary of State.*



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION BY THE TOWN OF HUDSON.

AT the instance of citizens interested in the due observance of the Centennial Anniversary of our National Independence, the following article was inserted in the annual town meeting warrant for 1876, to wit :

“To see if the town will take any action respecting the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the Nation's Independence, or do or act anything towards preserving the history of the first years of the existence of the town as a separate municipality.”

Under this article the following persons, viz : FRANCIS BRIGHAM, FRANK H. CHAMBERLAIN, DAVID B. GOODALE, JAMES T. JOSLIN, EDMUND M. STOWE, JAMES L. HARRIMAN, RUSSELL B. LEWIS, WM. F. TROWBRIDGE, GEORGE HOUGHTON, FRANCIS D. BRIGHAM, CHARLES H. ROBINSON, and BENJAMIN DEARBORN, were chosen a committee, and were “instructed to take into consideration the matter of holding a public meeting of the citizens of the town on the Fourth of July next, for the purpose of celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of the Nation's Independence by an Historical Address, or otherwise, whereby the history of the first decade of the town may be preserved, and, if considered necessary, request the Selectmen to call a meeting of the town for the consideration of any report which said committee may submit for its consideration.”

This committee organized by the choice of FRANCIS BRIGHAM, *Chairman*, and FRANK H. CHAMBERLAIN, *Secretary*. After mature deliberation it was decided to hold a public meeting at the Town Hall, on the forenoon of the fourth day of July, and that the Hon. CHARLES HUDSON of Lexington, be

invited to deliver an Historical Address on that occasion ; and that such other musical and literary exercises be supplied as the committee on invitations and literary exercises might determine.

The following members were chosen that committee:—
JAMES T. JOSLIN, JAMES L. HARRIMAN, FRANK H. CHAMBERLAIN.

The correspondence with the Hon. CHARLES HUDSON, together with the order of exercises in the hall, and the report of the proceedings herewith printed, sufficiently attest the labors of this committee.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HUDSON, JUNE 3, 1876.

HON. CHARLES HUDSON,

Dear Sir:— Agreeably to the recent Proclamation of the President of the United States, requesting the towns and cities to celebrate the approaching Centennial Anniversary of the Nation's Independence, the citizens of the town of Hudson contemplate such observance of the day, thereby to perpetuate, by appropriate exercises, such local incidents and events as may be gathered into an Historical Address for the benefit of coming generations.

The committee chosen to make the necessary arrangements, and especially to select some suitable person to prepare such an Address, unanimously agree that no person could be found better adapted, both on account of early associations, and subsequent education and training, than yourself, to perform this important work. Should your health, in your advanced age, permit of your engaging in this task, we trust that you will consent to accept this cordial invitation to garner the existing material and collate it as the initial history of the town bearing your name, and whose territory was the theatre of your youthful aspirations and experience. By so doing, we feel that, in the ripeness of years and in the light of a long and useful public career, you will add another important historical production to the catalogue of those of which you are already the author.

Trusting you may find it convenient to furnish us an early and favorable reply, we remain your friends and co-laborers in the interests of patriotism and a common humanity.

JAMES T. JOSLIN,	}	<i>Committee.</i>
J. L. HARRIMAN,		
F. H. CHAMBERLAIN,		

LEXINGTON, JUNE 7, 1876.

Gentlemen: — In reply to your flattering note of the 3d instant, inviting me to be with you on the 4th of July next, prepared to give an Historic Address on the situation of your town, I must say frankly that my age and infirmities are such, that I am almost afraid to comply with your request; and did it come from any other town, I should decline at once. But as it comes from a town in whose welfare I feel a special interest, I have concluded to accept your invitation. And as old age is said to be narrative, I will endeavor to collect what facts I can, trusting that I shall have your aid and co-operation in furnishing materials for an Historical Abstract of your town. I see in advance a very great embarrassment, as all your early history is so blended with that of Marlborough, that it will be impossible to give anything like a full and distinct history of your town before its organization.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully,

Your friend and serv't,

CHARLES HUDSON.

JAMES T. JOSLIN, J. L. HARRIMAN,
F. H. CHAMBERLAIN, *Committee.*

SUB-COMMITTEES.

The committee on singing, RUSSELL B. LEWIS, *Chairman*, did their work most successfully. The committee on finance, EDMUND M. STOWE, *Chairman*, succeeded in raising funds, so that no appropriation was asked from the town.

THE CELEBRATION.

From the original idea of exercises in the hall only, the festival grew to one of more general importance, and finally assumed the full proportions of an old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration, with the ringing of bells, firing of cannon, street pageant, and a good time generally. To the credit of the town let it be said, however, and may the fact never be forgotten, the people as a whole seemed impressed with the gravity of the occasion to the extent, that all unseemly indulgence and excess were avoided, and a commendable respect and decorum ruled the day. The Sabbath Schools and Chorus added grace and melody to the general harmony which prevailed.

So successful was the celebration that the town, at the following November meeting, voted that the aforesaid general

committee cause the oration, and such other matter connected with the celebration as the committee might deem advisable, to be published in pamphlet form, for the use of the town. At the same meeting the town voted unanimously, that the thanks of the citizens be extended to the Hon. CHARLES HUDSON and Miss PHÈBE A. HOLDER, for gratuitously contributing the Address and Poem.

A very correct idea of the manner in which the day was observed by the citizens, in pursuance of the programme arranged by the committee, may be gained from the following abstract from the report of the proceedings made by STILLMAN B. PRATT, of the Marlborough Mirror-Journal.

PROCESSION.

After describing the events of the morning in which the Antiques and Horribles were the chief attraction, the report says : —

“The regular procession as marshalled by Col. W. E. C. Worcester and his aids, Capts. A. S. Trowbridge, and Joseph W. Pedrick, was a fine turn-out and elicited general admiration. This was the order of formation :

Police Escort.

Marshal and Aids.

Division 1 — F. E. Emery, Commanding.

Co. I., Hudson Light Guard.

Reno Post 9, G. A. R.

Division 2 — R. H. Brigham, Commanding.

Eureka Engine Co.

Relief Hook and Ladder Co.

Independent Hose Co.

Juvenile Buckets and Rescues.

Division 3 — W. B. Brigham, Commanding.

Waldo Lodge, K. of P.

Committee of Arrangements.

Town Officers.

Orator and Invited Guests.

Sunday Schools.

Division 4 — W. McKee, Commanding.

Trades and Industries.

Hudson Farmers' and Mechanics' Club, with two yokes of oxen drawing members and implements and utensils.

Mowing Machine, Tedder and Rake, — Captain F. Brigham.

C. G. Brigham's Hothouse team full of Plants and Shrubs.

James Jillson's team with taxidermic specimens and work in progress in stuffing a goat.

Geo. W. Davis, with two teams, one laden with bbls. of flour and the other with bags of meal.

Milkmen's Wagons.

A turnout of Market Carts of Messrs. Arnold, Chase, Coodwin, Pollard and Smith & Holden, A. L. Maynard, Stoves, etc.

J. Jandron, Blacksmith team, with anvil, bellows, forge, etc., and two men at work.

EXERCISES AT THE TOWN HALL.

At ten o'clock, Town Hall was well filled. The exercises were of a high order, and promptly carried out. The gallery was occupied by the chorus, under the direction of R. B. LEWIS, and the Sunday School children. On the platform, besides the town officers, officers of the day, etc., etc., there were a large number of old gentlemen, including among their number the following :

W. P. Holden, 77 ; E. Whitney of Stow, 64 ; Elijah Hale of Stow, 88 ; Otis Heywood, 84 ; Silas Priest, 76 ; Joseph Dakin, 70 ; Rev. R. S. Persons, 67 ; Joel Wilkins, 81 ; Wm. Stone, 78 ; Daniel Farnsworth, 70 ; Charles Brigham, 60 ; John Rice, 68 ; Isaac Hall, 80 ; Hon. Chas. Hudson, Lexington, 81 ; Elisha Gates, 82 ; Peter Foran, 78.

On either side of the platform were the plows of 1776 and 1876.

After invocation by Rev. W. H. S. VENTRES, Capt. FRANCIS BRIGHAM, Chairman of the Committee, called the meeting to order, and on account of his feeble health requested J. T. JOSLIN to preside. On assuming the position of presiding officer, Mr. JOSLIN congratulated the assembly upon the auspicious circumstances under which they were convened. The heavens and the earth vie with each other to make the occasion memorable. We have arrived at the first centennial mile-stone in our country's career as a separate and independent nation.

It is fit and proper that we should lay aside our ordinary avocations, and in this public hall, dedicated to the common weal, celebrate with music, songs, and oration, the hundredth anniversary of our national existence. The history of the past century is remarkable. From thirteen feeble and struggling colonies, we have become a powerful nation, with nearly thrice as many States. The physical and political growth of the nation is typical of its advance in Science, Literature, and the Mechanic Arts. He closed his introductory remarks by reading the following original

PROLOGUE.

ALL hail ! Thrice hail !! Great day of Jubilee ;
 Deep bells and booming guns have welcomed thee.
 Assembled now, let us recall the story
 Of Freedom's march through conflict on to glory.
 Where once the savage bear and fierce wolf ran,
 To-day appear the wondrous works of man.
 Where once the dark primeval forests stood,
 To-day resound the songs of brotherhood.
 Two hundred fifty years this change have wrought,
 The wilds untamed, to happy homes are brought.
 Of this brief span, one hundred fifty years,
 Our sires, to conscience true, 'mid many tears,
 Laid the foundations of this mighty land,
 And set the church and school on every hand.
 Another hundred years, recorded now,
 By God's great love were given, wherein the vow
 The Fathers made to build a temple fair,
 Unfinished then, descending to the heir,
 The sons, by filial love inspired, might raise,
 Sacred to justice and Jehovah's praise.
 Completed is the work. May it endure
 Steadfast and strong, permanent and secure.

Singing followed from the Sunday School children, and the reading, in fine style, of the Declaration of Independence by Rev. A. W. MILLS. After music by the Marlborough Brass Band, the following original hymn by Rev. HILARY BYGRAVE, was sung by the audience. to the tune America.

CENTENNIAL HYMN.

Guided by freedom's ray,
The Fathers made their way,
Across the sea.
Leaning on God's strong hand,
They sought a distant strand,
And found this goodly land,
Where all are free.

For years they toiled and prayed.
Thro' sunshine and thro' shade,
To found a state.
A state, where all should be
Members of one family—
A pure democracy,
With each man great.

Against Britannia's power,
They raised a mighty tower,
Of patriot men.
And victory crowned their wars,
For just and equal laws,
And freedom's holy cause ;
Thank God ! amen !

The nation grew apace,
Contesting in the race,
With other lands.
And now a century old,
With stores of lore and gold,
And deathless deeds untold,
Honor'd she stands.

And may she still contend,
And evermore ascend,
To higher things.
Till all the world shall say,
That we have won the way,
To that supremest sway,
Which freedom brings.

Bought with a price so great,
 May we prize our estate,
 With all its grace,
 And down the centuries roll,
 The force of self-control,
 And noble strength of soul,
 To bless the race.

Thro' all the coming time,
 May we live lives sublime,
 And free from stain,
 And ever strive to be
 Worthy our ancestry,
 And with humility,
 Press on again.

The Address of Hon. CHARLES HUDSON, printed on the following pages, was followed by the Poem prepared for the occasion by Miss PHEBE A. HOLDER. This was succeeded by speeches from ELBRIDGE HOWE, of Marlboro', and EDWIN WHITNEY, of Stow, who officially represented these towns as parent towns of the town of Hudson as originally incorporated. Then came speeches from citizens of Hudson, viz: K. H. PEDRICK, Rev. HILARY BYGRAVE, CHARLES BRIGHAM, Rev. A. W. MILLS, CHARLES H. RICE, Rev. W. H. S. VENTRES. The speaking was closed by STILLMAN B. PRATT, of Marlboro', who gave a brief interesting account of celebrations held in Marlborough when Hudson was a portion of that town, and consequently form an historical item worthy of preservation.

The 40th anniversary of American Independence was celebrated in Marlborough, July 4, 1816. Three full militia companies took part. The oration was delivered in Rev. S. BUCKLIN'S church, to a crowded house. Dinner was served at the east end of the old Gates House.

July 5th, 1841, a grand Washingtonian Temperance Celebration was held there. Another temperance celebration took place July 3, 1852, with addresses by Dr. A. A. MINER, on Union Common, and picnic on High School Common. The "boro" towns and Berlin united on this occasion.

The grandest celebration of all was the Bi-Centennial held July 13, 1860, with the oration by Hon. C. HUDSON under the

big tent on Ockoocangansett Hill, the dinner and speeches in the tent near the South depot, and the picnic of 1300 children on Fairmount. Fifteen brass bands furnished music enough for a small peace jubilee.

July 4, 1865, was celebrated with oration and dinner, under a tent on the Old Common.

In all these Marlborough celebrations the people of Hudson have lent a helping hand and shown an active participation.

The exercises in the hall closed with a benediction by Rev. W. H. S. VENTRES, after which the officers and guests partook of a collation in the lower hall. Salutes were fired and bells rung at sunrise, noon and sunset. The evening fireworks on Mount Assabet were a surprise to all by their brilliancy and beauty. Capt. TROWBRIDGE was in charge of the artillery, and Dr. LONGENECKER of the fireworks. Not an accident occurred, nor was a single arrest made. Indeed so few signs of drunkenness were never manifest before on Independence Day, the venders and drinkers of liquors both co-operating in putting this appetite for drink under subjection. It was altogether a day of which to be proud.

HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

BY HON. CHARLES HUDSON.

ANCIENT HISTORY is but a narration of wars and fightings, of blood and carnage, of lands desolated, of cities sacked, of towns wrapt in flames, and a public exhibit of suffering, barbarity and crime on a broad scale. The only relief from this wholesale slaughter, is found in the less public massacres, or cases where those who wore or who aspired at a crown, have caused their rivals to be cast into loathsome prisons to perish, or to be executed on the scaffold, or to be taken off by some hired assassin.

But among the proofs of advancing civilization is the change of feeling and taste on these subjects. Now, the horrors of war, "the confused noise, and garments rolled in blood," have lost their charms, and the mass of the people desire pictures less revolting. They prefer to contemplate the arts of peace, the diffusion of knowledge, the spread of justice and humanity — in a word, the general advance of Christian civilization in the world. Every lover of his race must rejoice at this moral progress.

Not, however, that we would be unmindful of our country's welfare, or regardless of our own rights. As we love our country, we would protect and defend her

interest and her honor. But the world is beginning to learn that an interchange of fraternal feeling, and a respect for the rights of others, is the wisest system of national defence, and will do more than fleets and armies to preserve the peace of the world ; and that true wisdom teaches that the sword, though valuable in its place, should not be drawn till all other means have failed.

On this centennial year, when we are rendering our thanksgivings to the Author of all good for the prosperity he has vouchsafed to us, and when we are inviting the nations to our shores to rejoice with us, not in our prosperity alone, but in the general peace of the world, and the march of liberal sentiments, it becomes us to contribute our share to swell the noble current of public feeling, and strive to promote the harmony and welfare of the nations. We have, in fact, a double duty to perform — the duty which we owe to foreign nations, and perhaps the more delicate and difficult duty, which we owe to our late hostile brethren of the South. That we ought to receive in a cordial manner those who have submitted themselves and accepted the result of the late unfortunate struggle, there can be no doubt. But this duty is founded on high and patriotic principles, and should be performed in such a manner as to secure lasting harmony between the different sections of our country, and so render our Union more peaceful and prosperous.

If we assail our southern brethren with taunts and boasts that we have vanquished them in battle ; or in that sickly sentimentality, of which we see some specimens, which approaches them, hat in hand, extolling their bravery, and humbly entreating them to come back into the Union, and live in peace with us, we sink our manhood, and justly forfeit the respect of all

patriotic statesmen. Or, if we receive as due and enlightened submission, the haughty bravado of one who relies upon the fact that he has held a commission in the confederate army, or has fought under Davis, Jackson, or Lee, we are doing nothing calculated to gain the respect of the people abroad, or to render perpetual our free institutions. Enlightened patriotism requires that we should be forgiving, in all cases of penitence, and due submission.

We are assembled here to celebrate the birthday of the nation; and this anniversary, always interesting, is rendered doubly so at this time, from the fact that we have had a full century of experience since our fathers announced to the world that we were a free and independent nation. The doctrines of human freedom, set forth in the instrument announcing our independence, commended themselves to the good sense of mankind; but the question arose, whether there was intelligence and integrity enough in the people, to establish and carry forward successfully a system of self-government. Eighty years of general prosperity had satisfied most people that our system had proved a perfect success. We had enjoyed all the blessings of good government. We had had almost uninterrupted peace. The wars in which we had been engaged, had been of short duration and of no considerable magnitude; and we had been able to meet each event, and turn it to a good account. Most people, therefore, were ready to say that the experiment of a free government had succeeded, and that we were prepared to meet any emergency that could arise.

But some of the wisest statesmen abroad, and even in our own country, were still of the opinion at the end of eighty years' experience, that our experiment was but

half tried ; that we had shown that our institutions were adapted to a state of peace and prosperity, when things would take care of themselves ; but that they had not been tested by the trying ordeal of an oppressive and protracted war. Our government, we were told, was not strong enough for such a crisis, and our Constitution gave us no power to control a State. Such doctrines were proclaimed boldly by the advocates of monarchical institutions, and were becoming popular in some sections of our own country. But a crisis arose, when these forebodings were to be met. Several States had passed ordinances of secession, and had seized the property of the United States ; and the imbecile then at the head of the nation, gave up in despair, saying we had no authority to *coerce a State*.

But the incoming administration was pleased to say, that we had nothing to do with States, as such ; that the general government could contról its own subjects, and if rebellion broke out in any section of the country, the government had full authority to subdue the rebels, irrespective of the State to which they belonged. This doctrine met the crisis, and satisfied enlightened statesmen that we had power by the Constitution to sustain the government—the *power of self-preservation*. When the people were summoned to maintain the integrity of the Union, and sustain the honor of our flag, which had been assailed by a portion of our own countrymen, they were found ready to obey their country's call. And when, for a short time, in some localities, a portion of the citizens hesitating to respond to the call of the Executive, a draft was ordered and for a limited period enforced, the people were convinced that the government had ample power to command the services of its own citizens.

There had been a misapprehension relative to the

power of our government in time of war. As we had had no war since the adoption of the Constitution which put the extreme powers of the government in requisition, and the war power granted by the Constitution had not been carried out by statutory enactment, it seemed to be taken for granted that our government did not possess the extreme powers of a nation at war. But when the Constitution was read in the light of a civil war which threatened the life of the Republic, it was seen at once that it granted the war power as clearly as the peace power; that Congress was empowered not only to regulate commerce, but "to declare war, raise and support armies, to provide and maintain a navy, and to make rules for the government of the land and naval forces;" and all these forces were to be put at the disposal of the President, as Commander-in-chief.

As the Constitution gives no definition of the war power, and as we had not by legislation defined the extent of that power, we were required to look to the law of nations to ascertain its nature, extent, and limitation. And here we found the power ample, centering in the great principle of self-defence or *self-preservation*.

Even on the subject of African servitude, where the opinion was nearly unanimous that slavery, being a State institution, was beyond the control of the general government in the State where it was established; it was found that by the law of nations, slavery was subject to the war power; and when the commander-in-chief regarded the exigency sufficient, he had full power to do anything which would strengthen himself, or weaken his enemy, provided it did not outrage humanity. This gave President Lincoln authority to issue that immortal Proclamation, which converted four

millions of human chattels into the Lord's freemen, and so wiped out that foul stain from the escutcheon of our country. Well, then, may we rejoice in the stability of our institutions, which have proved our guide in peace and our bulwark in war.

We have met to recount the blessings we have enjoyed ; to review our past history, and so be able to show to those who come after us, that free institutions contribute to national growth, and are productive of individual prosperity and happiness. We have, also, another object on this auspicious occasion. We wish to collect materials for our annals, and exhibit our present standing, so that on the return of this centennial day, a just comparison may easily be instituted between our condition now, and at that time. We see the zeal which is manifested, and the efforts which are made, to ascertain the condition of the community a hundred years ago ; and we have no doubt that those who celebrate the next centennial, will be as anxious to know our condition to-day, as we are to learn the condition of our ancestors a century past. It must also be pleasing to ourselves to bring our history up to the present time, so that we may see through what changes we have passed, and also to make the present a land-mark from which to view our future progress or decline. We hardly realize the importance of keeping our annals posted. What occurs to-day, we feel that we know, and that there is no necessity of committing it to paper. But the event which is present to-day, will be past to-morrow ; and what we witness now and understand fully, will in a few years be partially or wholly forgotten.

But Hudson, in some respects, is unfortunate in the fact that, as a municipality, her history extends back only about ten years. Before 1866, the history of

Hudson was merged in that of Marlborough and the Indian Plantation. This fact renders it impossible to give a minute account of the early annals of the town. For two centuries, Hudson had no existence separate from Marlborough, the glorious mother of most of us. When, therefore, any event of an historical character occurred, and was entered on the Marlborough records, we are unable, in most cases, to decide whether the event occurred, or the party resided in what is now the old town, or in the territory belonging to Hudson. This consideration must show that the historian of this modern town must be satisfied with a history meagre in ancient incidents. We will, however, supply what early events can be gathered and authenticated.

The early history of Hudson is not only involved with that of Marlborough, but with the history of the Indian Plantation, a portion of the latter territory being included in the new town. In fact, the history of these Indians is so interwoven with the local, and even with the general history of this section, that we cannot pass it by without a brief notice.

When our fathers first came to Massachusetts, the country was sparsely peopled. The desolating wars among the tribes, and a destructive pestilence, which had not only 'wasted in darkness, but destroyed at noon day,' had in a great degree depopulated this section of New England. The few savages left were generally disposed to live peaceably with the whites. In 1643, their principal chiefs came in, and submitted themselves to the General Court of Massachusetts, on the assurance that they should be allowed certain plantations, and be protected in their rights. The Indians who were located at Marlborough, were a small remnant of the Natick and Wamesit tribes. They had a planting field at *Ockoocangansett*, before the Sudbury men had

petitioned for a township ; and when that request was presented, the petitioners were informed that the Court had not only confirmed the Indians in their planting field, but had granted them a plantation of six thousand acres ; and that the Sudbury grant, so far as location was concerned, must be subordinate to the Indian grant.

When the locations of these grants were made, they presented the singular and almost ridiculous sight of an Indian Plantation nearly surrounded by the grant of the township to the Sudbury men. The Indian planting field consisted of about one hundred and sixty acres, and included what was afterwards known as the old Meeting House Common, and the hill or swell of land extending east to Spring Hill, and north to the road passing by the residence of the late William Loring Howe. This planting field penetrated into the very centre or heart of the Marlborough grant, and was always an eyesore to the English inhabitants. In fact, it so far intruded into their township, that when they built their meeting-house, they located it on the Indian planting field, to the great dissatisfaction of the Indians. The Ockoocangansett, or Indian Plantation, of six thousand acres, was laid out in connection with their planting field. The west line commenced in the valley immediately west of the old common, near where the present High school-house stands, and ran north seven degrees west, about three and a half miles, crossing the Assabet river, between the present cemetery and the depot in Hudson ; thence the line ran easterly to the boundary of the town. The southerly line of the plantation commenced near Spring Hill, on the road leading to Hudson, and ran three miles east, to the line of Sudbury ; thence on Sudbury line, till it met the line east from Hudson before mentioned. This plantation,

as will be seen, embraced a large quantity of valuable land, which of course was coveted by the Marlborough people. The plantation was granted to the Indians in fee simple, with no restriction except that they should not sell or alienate it without the consent of the General Court. And this restriction was inserted in the grant as a protection to the Indians against land speculators, who might fraudulently dispossess them of their lands.

The English settlers and the Indians generally lived peaceably together. Not only the inhabitants of Marlborough, but the General Court were disposed to deal kindly with the Indians and protect them in their rights. The Court encouraged the Apostle Eliot, in his laudable effort to civilize and Christianize the Indians, and so convert them into valuable citizens. Not only the remnant located at Marlborough, but several other plantations, shared Eliot's care, and were generally designated *Praying Indians*. There were seven of these Praying towns: *Natick*, now the town of that name; *Packemitt*, now Stoughton; *Ockoocangansett*, now Marlborough; *Wamesit*, now Lowell; *Hassanamisett*, now Grafton; *Nashobah*, now Littleton; and *Magunkook*, now Hopkinton. As these plantations were in the midst of the English settlements, no doubt the labors of Eliot and his friend Gookin, contributed in a great degree to the preservation of peace between them and the English; and though the Indians may have aided their brethren, in some degree, in Philip's war, they would have been much more dangerous to the whites, but for the religious instruction they had received.

Eliot was sincerely devoted to the Indians, and sought by every means to improve their temporal and spiritual condition. He was born in England in 1604, and came to this country in 1631. He was settled as a clergyman

in Roxbury. He early conceived the idea of civilizing and Christianizing the Indians, and commenced preaching to them in Newton, in 1646. To prepare himself for the work, he learned their language; in 1663, he translated the New Testament, and in 1665, the Old Testament, into Indian, that the natives might be enabled to read the word of life in their own tongue. His Bible thus translated, bore the title, "Mamusse Wunmeetupanatmwe Up-Biblum God naneeswe Nuk-kane Testament kahwank Wusku Testament." The longest word in it was, Wutappesittukgussunnookweh-tunkquoh, signifying "kneeling down to Him."

These Praying Indians, though generally peaceable, were more than suspected of aiding Philip in his attacks upon the English settlements. During that war, many of those of the Marlborough tribe were absent from their plantation; and such was the evidence or suspicion against them, that the government sent Captain Mosely with a detail of soldiers, who appeared suddenly, and surrounding their fort, made them all prisoners, and took them to Boston, where they were confined on one of the islands in the harbor. At the close of Philip's war, a portion of these Indians returned to their plantation at Marlborough, though the spirit and unity of the tribe seemed to be broken.

Their territory, which the English had long coveted, attracted more attention at the close of the war than it ever had before. The fact that the tribe appeared in some degree to be scattered, and the belief that some of them, at least, had been treacherous, and had aided the enemy, strengthened the impression that their lands, which penetrated the very heart of Marlborough, should be devoted to other and more valuable purposes than their retention as a mere hunting ground. In 1677, certain citizens of Marlborough, Lancaster, and Sudbury,

preferred a petition to the General Court, setting forth that the Marlborough Indians during the recent war had been perfidious, and had taken part with the enemy, and so had forfeited their title to the plantation of Ockoo-cangansett; and that the petitioners had been in their country's service, and had suffered in their persons and estates; wherefore, they humbly prayed that the Court would grant to them the said tract of land, or that it be sold to them on moderate terms. But the Court did not see fit to grant their request.

In May, 1684, John Ruddocke, and thirty-four others of Marlborough, petitioned the General Court for authority to purchase of the Indians their plantation; and ten of the Indians joined in the request. But a much larger number of the Indians remonstrated against the prayer of the petitioners. The General Court, in this case as in every other, adhered to their plighted faith; and deeming it unwise for the Indians to sell their land, they consequently denied the prayer of Ruddocke and others. But it appears that the principal inhabitants of Marlborough, headed by John Brigham, a bold operator, resolved to possess the Indian land, and cut the knot which they could not untie. On the 15th of July, 1684, they obtained, without the consent of the Court, a deed of the plantation from a large portion of the Indians. This fact being brought to the knowledge of the authorities, they pronounced the deed *illegal, and consequently null and void*; being made and done expressly contrary to law and the order of the Court.

But regardless of this decision of the Court, the purchasers of the plantation, in October, 1686, decided that every proprietor should have laid out to him in some of the best of the land lying as conveniently as may be, to the town of Marlborough, thirty acres for a first division of upland; and when the lots were laid out, every

proprietor should draw his lot. Feeling uneasy about the title to their land, in 1693, they agreed that their grants of land "shall stand good to all intents and purposes, if they be attested by John Brigham, their clerk." Despairing of any confirmation of their doings by the Court, whose authority they had expressly disregarded, at a meeting held in 1709 they voted, "that they would make articles to bind themselves in a covenant, whereby what we do may stand in force." Subsequently the proprietors signed a covenant, that they would pay each his several share to defray all charges growing out of their lands, or the titles thereof.

The proprietors were conscious that their title was invalid, and hence they persevered in their application to the Court for a confirmation of their purchase. The Court were not inclined to reverse their decision. But in 1719, they annexed this territory to Marlborough, and at the same time, as the proprietors had gained a title by possession, confirmed and legalized their land titles.

We have dwelt longer upon this Indian Plantation than might seem necessary. But as the history of the parent town was so immediately connected with this Indian Plantation, and as one-half of the territory of Hudson, taken from Marlborough, was included in that grant, it seemed important that we should know the character of our predecessors and the origin of our possessions. We must admit that there is something melancholy in the thought, that the lands we possess in peace, were once the joyful possession of a people who have faded away, and retired from the English settlements as from a desolating pestilence. When we look at this subject in one point of view, we are almost inclined to find fault with the conduct of our fathers, and regret the order of Providence. But a

moment's reflection will correct our false judging, and the wisdom of Providence in the displacement of the Indians will appear in another light. Though there may be a sadness in the thought of the extinction of the original owners of the soil, it is no more sad than what we witness daily in society.

To see an old gentleman, who has been useful in his day and generation, tottering on the brink of the grave and finally passing off the stage, when viewed abstractly, must appear sad ; but when we consider that he has fulfilled his destiny, and outlived his usefulness, and has simply passed from this sublunary scene of action, to make room for younger men, who are better able to carry forward the great work of civilization, we can but see the wisdom of Divine Providence. And it is precisely so with the natives of this country ; they retire to make way for a wiser population, which will carry forward the great work of improvement far better than the wild men of the forest.

There is a morbid sensibility on the subject of the supplanting of the red men ; and the whites are frequently accused of a great wrong in dispossessing the Indians of their lands. This subject merits a moment's attention. When God created man, he commanded him to cultivate the earth, and subdue it ; and it is perfectly obvious, that one important element in the title to the soil is, the mingling of labor with it, and so rendering it more capable of supporting human beings. Every one knows that the same tract of country will support a much larger number of civilized than of savage men. The man who fells a forest, and prepares the land for cultivation, has certainly a better title to the soil, than the man who has simply roamed through it in quest of game. The one, by his labor, has fitted it for the support of a civilized population ;

the other has mixed no labor with the soil, and if successful in hunting, may have rendered the forest less capable of sustaining such a population. While we bless the Lord for his goodness in creating man, and believe that a cultivated country will support a larger population than a wilderness, we must admit that the disappearance of the savage tribes gives a fuller display of divine benevolence, than could exist if the inferior race should maintain its standing, and devote the greater part of the country to mere hunting ground.

But while true wisdom teaches us to submit readily to the manifest destiny of the Indians, this will not justify us in treating them harshly, or depriving them of any of their rights. As the child knows that his aged parent must in a few years pass from the stage of life, so we know that the savage must give place to civilized man. But in neither case does this knowledge justify any severity. On the contrary, the approaching departure should in both cases excite our compassion, and ensure kind treatment.

The history of Hudson being included in that of Marlborough till quite recently, it becomes necessary to take a brief view of the parent town. The grant of Marlborough was made to certain petitioners from the town of Sudbury, in 1657; and in 1660 the territory was incorporated into a town. The township was large, and included what is now the towns of Westborough, Northborough, and Southborough. Being a frontier town, and a kind of way-station on the line of travel from Boston to the settlements on the Connecticut river, it was greatly exposed to the incursions of the Indians; and in Philip's war, their meeting-house, and many of their dwellings were burned, and the settlement substantially broken up. But after the return of the population, the Indians from Canada

made frequent incursions into the original township, and killed or carried into captivity several persons. To guard against these dangers, twenty-five or thirty garrisons were established, one at the present village of Hudson, and two or three others near the borders of the present town. During the old French war the town was nearly drained of its active male population, who were called into the field to repel the incursions of the French and Indians. After these wars had been brought to a successful termination, and the controversy arose with the mother country, Marlborough took a decided stand in support of the claims of the Colonies; and when on the 19th of April, 1775, she heard of the march of the British from Boston, and the fatal firing upon the militia at Lexington, she dispatched, on a few hours' notice, four companies of soldiers, consisting of about two hundred men, to the scene of action,—resolved to vindicate their rights or perish in the attempt. We cannot conceive of a more sublime spectacle than that of the people, with no orders, moved only by a patriotic impulse, leaving their homes and their business, quitting their families and taking their lives in their hands, and marching at a moment's warning, thirty miles, to repel the invaders of human rights! And what shows the sincerity of the Marlborough soldiers, is, that some of the men, thus hastily leaving home, remained in camp watching the enemy thirty and even forty days. And during the whole Revolutionary struggle, Marlborough furnished her quota of men and supplies, and proved herself patriotic to the last.

In all these trials and privations, and in the laudable efforts to sustain free principles, and to resist haughty oppression, the population residing in the north part of the town, were not behind the other inhabitants.

They claim no superiority, and they allow no inferiority, in their efforts for the cause of their country. Also, throughout her whole history, Marlborough has had no reason to complain of the citizens in the northern section of the town, and they in return, having now set up for themselves, have no complaints to bring against their lawful mother. They acted together, till mutual interest suggested a separation. Even in the late war in defence of the Union, though Feltonville, as the village was then called, had become somewhat populous, and acted in a certain sense independently of the parent town, yet, being a part of Marlborough, all its legal acts were those of the town. It is believed that in the late war, the part of the town constituting Hudson, furnished its full complement of men, and did a full share in supplying the troops who were in the field. The patriotism of the village was never called in question.

Though it is impossible to separate the history of the northern part of Marlborough from the rest of the town, it is certain that according to its population, the northern portion furnished as many men for the principal municipal offices, as any section of the town. For the first half century, there were very few inhabitants in the part now contained in Hudson; but as population increased at the north, there was at least a fair proportion of public offices filled by men inhabiting the northern section of the township. Since 1800, we could mention John, Jonathan, and Joseph Hapgood, Nathan, Abner, and David Goodale, Robert Barnard, Silas Jewell, Edward and Robert Hunter, Amasa and Joel Cranston, Lovewell Barnes, Silas Felton, Stephen Rice, Jedediah and Wm. H. Wood, Ezekiel Bruce, George E. Manson, S. B. Fairbanks, Francis Brigham, J. T. Joslin, Ebenezer Witt, G. S. Rawson, Stephen Pope, Edward Wilkins,

and others, who have resided on the territory which is now included in Hudson, and some of them held the respective offices for a long period. Jonathan Hapgood was Selectman nine years, Lovewell Barnes, eight years, Joel Cranston, four years, Silas Felton, eleven years, Jedediah Wood, four years, G. E. Manson, eleven years, David Goodale, five years, and W. H. Wood, several years. Besides, Silas Felton was Assessor twenty-five years, and Town Clerk thirteen years. Joel Cranston and Stephen Pope, each represented the County in the State Senate; and Cranston, Felton, Hale, Goodale, Francis Brigham, and others, have represented the town in the House of Representatives. As Justices of the Peace, we can name Cranston, Felton, S. Pope, Wm. H. Wood, D. Goodale, G. S. Rawson, G. E. Manson, and J. T. Joslin, from this section of the town.

From this glance at the subject, it will be seen that the inhabitants of the northern section of old Marlborough, had their full share of influence in the town, and a due proportion of the honors the inhabitants had to bestow. But, in order to a just appreciation of the origin of the settlement of this part of Marlborough, it is necessary to take into the account the state of things as they existed two centuries ago, and the causes which would affect the settlement in different sections of the town. Some of these causes, such as fear from the Indians, we can hardly appreciate at the present day, though at that time, they were rightfully controlling. The tomahawk and scalping-knife, or hopeless captivity, made the stout heart hesitate and the boldest tremble. And the incursions which were made into the original township, show that the danger was real.

For various reasons, the northern part of Marlborough, which is now included in Hudson, was not settled so early as the southern and central portion of

the township. In the first place, one half of the territory set off from Marlborough to form the town of Hudson, was covered by the Indian Plantation, and no valid title could be given of the land till 1719. This of course would discourage settlements on that territory. Then, during the Indian wars, the people would naturally be disposed to settle somewhat compactly, that they might the better defend themselves. Marlborough, being on the great thoroughfare between Boston and the settlements on the Connecticut river, the government made it a sort of military depot, and maintained a small garrison there, which would give a sense of security to the settlers. Besides, the meeting-house, always the great object of attraction to the Puritans, being on the main road, would be an additional reason why the people would be induced to settle in that section of the township.

Moreover, there seems to have been a disposition among the early settlers to confine the population to the central part of the town, as may be seen by their action as early as 1662. After dividing about a thousand acres of land among themselves, and reserving "four score acres to accommodate some such desirable person as need may require, and the town may accept of," they described a large quantity of land, including the valley of the Assabet down to the Indian Plantation, and provided that it should remain a perpetual *cow common* for the use of the town, "never to be allotted without the consent of all the inhabitants and proprietors at a full meeting." This unwise restriction proved very embarrassing ; but remained in force nearly half a century, and was at last removed by an Act of the General Court. This restriction would seem to prevent any settlement on the Assabet river.

There was practically, a similar policy adopted by the

English proprietors of the Indian Plantation. For before they had made any division of their land, they provided "that every proprietor should have sixty acres of some of the best land lying *conveniently as may be to the town.*" This would tend to draw settlers to the centre of the town, where the principal population was then found.

The inhabitants of the town and the proprietors of the Indian Plantation, made several divisions of their lands. Their first division generally consisted of some of their most valuable land ; and in laying it out, they were not always careful to have their lots contiguous. Hence there would frequently be remnants or gores of land unappropriated ; and the second, third, and fourth divisions, and especially the last, are frequently made up of these odds and ends. Many of the proprietors would sell out their rights in these latter divisions, and the land speculators or jobbers would very often buy up these remnants from different parties or proprietors, and frequently sell them out to settlers. We often find deeds given by these speculators, conveying from five to ten or twelve distinct pieces of land, varying from one to thirty acres, and sometimes to a less quantity than an acre. This renders it very difficult to trace the early titles, or to ascertain the homestead of many families. Where lot A is bounded on lot B, and B on lot C, and C on common or undivided land, it requires no ordinary skill to fix the location. And the frequent statement that the same *being in the right of A. B.'s second or third division* lot, casts no light upon the subject ; for Mr. A. B. may not reside within a half dozen miles of his lot.

We have a good illustration of this in the deed to Robert Barnard, conveying the mill and most of the

land now covered by the village of Hudson. The mill recognized by the deed was erected by Joseph Howe, son of Abraham Howe, who was one of the proprietors of Marlborough. Joseph was a large speculator in land—owning tracts in Marlborough, Lancaster and Watertown. He died Sept. 4, 1700. His real estate was inventoried at £1,442. What year the mill was built is uncertain; probably just before his death. Sarah, his oldest child, married Jeremiah Barstow in 1711; he, by his wife or by purchase, came into possession of the mill, and a large number of other lots, which covered nearly if not all of what constitutes the village of Hudson. In 1723 he sold to Robert Barnard,* then of Andover, for £600, a large quantity of land amounting to about 350 acres. This land is described in fifteen pieces lying in what was Marlborough, and three pieces lying in Lancaster, afterwards Bolton. The general description shows that there were a corn mill, a house and barn, an orchard, garden, and fences on the homestead; that the whole tract extended on the north to the Lancaster line, and easterly to the Bush place (near Daniel Stratton's); that it lay on both sides of the river, and while the northern portion of this general grant extended as far east as the land of Abiah Bush, the portion near the river on both sides, could not have extended easterly beyond the Indian line, which must have been between the Depot and the Cemetery. It also appears that the pieces on the south side of the river were generally bounded on common or undivided land. It seems that this deed to

* *Robert Barnard, Sen.*, was in Andover early. His son Stephen was born 1649, and married, 1671, Rebecca Howe, by whom he had four sons. Robert, his second son, was born 1689, and married, 1710, Rebecca Osgood. She died 1727, and he married Elizabeth Bailey of Lancaster, in 1729. He had nine children, seven born in Marlborough. He died, 1773, aged 84 years.

Barnard must cover nearly the whole of the present village of Hudson, so far as it is within that portion which has been taken from Marlborough.

This mill, and dwelling house, and barn, and other "housing," were undoubtedly comprised in the first settlement in this section of the town. While there is nothing special in the soil or natural scenery to draw settlers from the central part of the town, there was one want of a new settlement which could be better supplied here than elsewhere in the township. Though burning coals or hot embers could parch the corn, or a stone pestle could convert it into a coarse hominy, or the boiling kettle into samp; yet it has always been found not only convenient, but highly desirable to have a grist mill where corn and other grains can be changed into meal. This feeling will easily account for building a mill in the out-part of the town,—this being the best water power within their borders.

When this mill was erected, or how Joseph Howe obtained the site is uncertain. In 1662 the valley of the Assabet was doomed to perpetual pasturage, which would seem to prevent any sale or allotment of land upon its banks. There were two exceptions to this restriction. The one was the reserving of four score acres for some *needful person*, and the other the vote of all the persons at a full meeting of the proprietors. On one or the other of these exceptions, he probably obtained this grant; for the citizens must have looked favorably upon the erection of a corn mill. Barstow married a daughter of Joseph Howe, about eleven years after the death of her father, and perhaps may have come into the possession of some of this property in virtue of the right of his wife; but in 1718, Barstow bought of Bethia Howe twenty-five acres of land bordering upon the mill-pond, and several other lots

adjoining, which were beyond question some of the lands which Barstow sold to Barnard.

That Jeremiah Barstow was a speculator in land, is obvious from the fact that in his grant of three hundred acres to Barnard, he bounds the grant in several instances, on lands owned by himself; and two years before his sale to Barnard, he sold land to Jonathan Bush. He had a family of ten children between 1712 and 1730, probably born in the village, as he was the miller and must have resided there. He undoubtedly left town soon after 1730.

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We may safely date the beginning, or rather the growth of the village from the coming of Barnard into the place, about 1724. He took possession of the mill, and also opened a public house on the site of the house and store occupied by the late Col. Wm. H. Wood. Though the Barnards in the male line, did not multiply materially at the "Mills," as the place was called, in the female line they were connected by marriage with the Bayleys, Nurses, Howes, Stevenses, Bruces, Wilkinses, and several other families, who were quite numerous in the northern part of the town. Though there was no particular growth to the village till after the Revolution, yet there were several families of substantial farmers, who settled upon what is now included in Hudson. Among the earliest, perhaps, we may mention the Goodale family.* Samuel Wheeler deeded land to John Witt and John Goodale, from

*GOODALE. — Robert Goodale embarked at Ipswich, England, with his wife Katharine in April, 1634, and landed in Salem. Zachariah, their first child born in America, married and had, among other sons, John, Benjamin, and David, born in Salem. Each of them came to Marlborough, and settled on the Indian Plantation, early in 1700. John married Elizabeth Witt, and had Solomon and Nathan. Nathan married Persis Whitney, and had a large family, — Abner, their tenth child, who married Molly Howe, was prominent in church and state, and his sons, Nathan and David, were distinguished as educators; and the latter became one of the leading men of the town. He resided where his son David B. now lives.

Salem ; and Witt conveyed his right to Goodale, and that prominent and influential family have occupied the place where David B. Goodale resides, since 1702.

Thomas Hapgood settled in the Indian Plantation, before 1700, on what was afterwards called the Colonel Wessen or Spurr Place. His descendants have been numerous, and the early generations all resided within the present limits of Hudson. Thomas Hapgood died 1764, aged 95 years. An English publication had this notice of his death : "Died at Marlborough, New England, in the 95th year of his age, Mr. Thomas Hapgood. His posterity were numerous ; viz. 9 children ; 92 grandchildren ; 208 great-grandchildren ; and 4 great-great-grandchildren ; in all 313. *His* grandchildren saw *their* grandchildren, and their grandfather at the same time."

Shadrach Hapgood, their original ancestor, came to this country in 1656, and settled in Sudbury. He was treacherously slain by the Indians in Philip's war. The Wilkineses came from Danvers, and settled on the Indian Plantation about 1740, where a number of families of the name resided for several generations. Artemas Howe, a descendant of Abraham Howe, married Mary Bigelow, 1767, and settled on the road leading from the Hapgoods, to the centre of the town, north of Fort Meadow Brook. He was, probably, the first who settled and reared a family of Howes on the present territory of Hudson. Abiah Bush settled in the northern part of Marlborough, as early, probably, as 1690. John Bruce came to Marlborough about 1740, and settled on what has since been known as the Ezekiel Bruce Place. Nathaniel Hathorn, probably from Lynn, came to Marlborough about 1725, and settled on what is now occupied as the Pauper establishment. Edward Hunter came to Marlborough about the same time, and

settled in the same neighborhood. Solomon Brigham, a lineal descendant of Thomas Brigham, married Martha Boyd in 1754, and about 1756 located himself on the road leading from the "mills" to the centre of the town, on the place where Charles Brigham now resides. He was the grandfather of Francis Brigham, to whose enterprise the town owes no small share of its prosperity.

As these settlers were generally farmers, and resided some distance from the "mills," their intercourse was for the most part with the middle of the town, and hence did not contribute much to the growth of the village. About 1794, Joel Cranston* came to the place, and being a man of energy and public spirit, he opened a store, kept a public house, and a few years later, started quite a number of mechanical branches of industry, viz. cloth-dressing, blacksmithing, tanning, carding of wool, &c. He afterward became a farmer and manufacturer, and was the principal agent in building up Rock Bottom. Silas Felton† came to the place in 1799, and went into partnership in the store with Joel Cranston, and continued in trade to the close of his life in 1828. Cranston and Felton were not only useful men in the village, but were highly respected generally, and filled many of the

*CRANSTON. — The early history of this family is meagre. Samuel Cranston, the grand-father of Joel, came to this country, and probably settled in the western part of the colony. He came to Marlborough about 1728. He had a family of six children. Amasa, his fourth child, married Mary Hathorn; they were the parents of Joel. Amasa served in the French, and in the Revolutionary war, where he rose to the rank of Major. Joel, born in 1763, married, 1784, Lucretia Eager. They had no issue.

†SILAS FELTON, born 1776, was son of Stephen, born 1752, and grand-son of Jacob, born 1712, who married, first, Sarah Barrett, and second, Hezadiah Howe. He was son of Samuel, who married, 1709, Sarah Goodale, and had nine children. Samuel was son of John and grand-son of Nathaniel, the original emigrant, who was in Salem 1633. *Jacob* Felton came to Marlborough about 1728. He died, aged 77, and his last wife died aged 93 years and 11 months. The Feltons were numerous and respectable, and by marriage were connected with most of the prominent families. Silas married Lucretia Fay, and had two daughters, both of whom were married in the village.

most important offices in the town. Their enterprise and popularity invited people to the place; and, in the space of a few years, several important families came to the village:—Mr. George Peters, the ring of whose anvil would awaken the village from their slumbers; Captain Jedediah Wood, who would card the wool for spinning, and dress the cloth when the rolls were converted into a fabric; Stephen Pope, who could convert the hides into leather, and his father, Folger, in whose hands the leather would become a saddle or a harness. These men came to the village about 1800. Nor were these the only acquisitions. About this time Ebenezer Witt, long known as the “honest miller,” came to the village, where he spent his days, which were closed in 1840, in his 85th year.

Of the families which settled in the village about this period, *George Peters* probably came from Medfield. He married Lydia Maynard, and had George, Ephraim, Luther, Adolphus, and John H.—*Jedediah Wood* was son of Peter Wood, who came from Concord to Marlborough, and was a descendant of the third generation from William, the original emigrant. Jedediah married Betsey Wilkins, and was father of Colonel William H., Elbridge and Alonzo.—The *Popes* were from Salem, and for a time owned the principal land in the village; the family have been prominent in the place.—*Ebenezer Witt* was a descendant of John Witt, who came to Marlborough in 1707. Ebenezer was son of Josiah and grandson of Samuel, who represented Marlborough twenty-three years in the General Court. Ebenezer Witt had one son and three daughters, all of whom married in the town. About 1800, Phineas Sawyer came to the place, and bought the saw mill and grist mill. He was a man of character and enterprise, and about 1810 he built a small cotton factory, the first and

only one in the town and vicinity. Mr. Sawyer being a Methodist by profession, was the first who introduced Methodist preaching into the place. He came to a sad end. The water-wheel at his mill being obstructed by ice, he went upon it to cut the ice away, when the wheel started and carried him into the water ; where, confined by the wheel, he was soon drowned.

These settlements would naturally promote the business of the place, and not only increase the population of the village itself, but would induce farmers to settle around. Lovewell Brigham, Ivory Brigham, Stephen Rice, Daniel Stevens, and others, located themselves within the circuit of a mile of the village. Efforts were made to build up the place. The factory employed but a few hands, and produced only yarn. Some little weaving was done in families ; and Cranston, Felton, and Hale, employed two or three young women to weave satinet, a fabric of cotton and wool, used extensively at that time for pantaloons. Another enterprise of the same parties, was the introduction of a distillery for the manufacture of cider brandy. During the war of 1812, spirits of all kinds were high, and Marlborough, famous for its apple orchards, had at that time an unusual quantity of fruit, and had established in the centre of the town two distilleries ; but it was found that their utmost ability, running night and day, could not consume the cider that was brought in. This induced Felton and Company to establish another distillery. They gave out word that they would have vats of sufficient number and capacity to receive the cider as fast as it came ; and by running their still night and day, and by transferring to casks the first run of the still, without raising it to the desired proof, they would so clear their vats as to empty all barrels as soon as they were brought: but a few days' experience convinced

them of their mistake ; for the cider was brought in such quantities, that with all their large vats, their yard, after the first ten days, showed an accumulation of hundreds of barrels, waiting for their turn to be discharged. Some idea of the quantity of cider may be formed from the fact that the distillers allowed but sixty-two cents per barrel, and paid with goods from their stores.

With all the effort to increase the growth of the village, it remained nearly stationary for a considerable period. One cause which retarded its growth, was the fact that land in the village for building could not be obtained. In 1802, Folger Pope, then of Salem, bought of John Peck of Newton, one hundred acres of land, which was the foundation of the Pope estate in the place ; it covered almost the entire village of the "mills." And though Mr. Pope introduced tanning and saddlery into the village, he adopted a policy somewhat common at that day, to hold on to his land ; thinking it better to have a large farm than a growing village. This unwillingness to sell, even enough for a house lot, checked the growth of the place for years, — a misfortune which many towns have experienced from the same cause.

Nothing worthy of note occurred in the village until the introduction of manufactures, of which we shall speak hereafter. The subject we wish to present now, is the desire of the people to be erected into a township. We have shown that the part of Marlborough, known as the "Mills," or "Feltonville," has some associations, events, or elements, which will form a basis of character, and that she does not rely simply upon her ten years' corporate existence for her history. So far as individual character and enterprise are concerned, she had displayed her full share of stability. Being situated more than three miles from the centre of Marlborough, and having stores, schools, churches, a post-office, and

all other conveniences which constitute a town, except municipal privileges, it was natural for the citizens of Feltonville to desire corporate powers, so that they could do their own public business in their own way. There were also a number of families residing within the township of Bolton, whose territory approached within a hundred rods of the village of Feltonville, and who were four miles from the centre of Bolton: these families were desirous of acting with the people in the village, and becoming a part of a new town.

A meeting was held on the third of May, 1865, to take into consideration the forming of a new town. Captain Francis Brigham was called to the chair, and Silas H. Stuart was chosen Secretary. Resolutions were passed, expressing their belief that their interest would be promoted by becoming a corporate municipality, and recommending that a petition be presented to the General Court, to be set off from their respective organizations, and be made a town. A committee of nine was chosen to report upon the boundary of the proposed town. This committee consisted of Francis Brigham, George Houghton, E. M. Stowe, S. H. Stuart, and J. T. Joslin of Marlborough, Albert Goodrich, Caleb E. Nurse, and J. P. Nurse of Bolton, and Ira H. Brown of Berlin. This committee recommended a line which was substantially adopted, and agreed to by the parties, so far as it related to Marlborough.

At a meeting of the citizens at Union Hall, June 13, 1865, it was voted to alter the line near the house of Daniel Stratton, so as to take in a corner of Stow, and to appoint a committee of five, to make all the necessary arrangements for the purpose of incorporating the new town, — and Francis Brigham, James T. Joslin, George Houghton, Daniel Stratton, and Ira H. Brown

were appointed. At a meeting held September 27, it was decided that the contemplated town should be called *Hudson*. It being recommended that the different parties should present their own separate petitions, George Houghton and 264 others, Lyman Perry and 7 others, Daniel Stratton and 24 others, and Ira H. Brown and 7 others, sent in their petitions. Here is an aggregate of more than three hundred, stating different reasons why a new town should be created. But the town of Bolton, and the county of Worcester, by their counsel, Hon. G. F. Hoar, made a strenuous effort to defeat the petition, relying in a good degree upon the fact, that taking a parcel of land from Bolton, would require altering the county line, which could not be done constitutionally. This position was fully met and satisfactorily refuted by J. T. Joslin, Esq., counsel for the petitioners. But still, for reasons best known to themselves, the Legislature refused to include in the town they created, that portion of land lying within the limits of Bolton, though some portion of it was within a stone's throw of the village of Feltonville. The petitioners, knowing that this territory, situated in the immediate neighborhood of Feltonville, and at least three miles from the centre of Bolton, must affiliate with the village where the property was owned, and where the population did business or found employment, consented to take a bill without the Bolton section, believing that that would ultimately come by the force of gravity.

The act was passed March 19, 1866, creating the town of Hudson, giving it a boundary, not very intelligible, I confess, as follows: "Beginning at the westerly corner of the territory, at a stone monument on the dividing line between said territory and the town of Berlin, in the county of Worcester; thence southeast-

erly, angling twice, as said dividing line now runs, ninety-seven and sixty-eight one hundredths rods to a stone monument standing on the southeasterly side of the road leading from Feltonville, so called, to Northborough ; thence in an easterly direction in a straight line across the entire territory of said Marlborough, to a stone monument on the dividing line between said Marlborough and Sudbury, standing on the southerly side of the Sudbury road, near the house of Albion Parmenter, and about two hundred and fifty-one rods south of the Stow line ; thence in a northerly direction on the present dividing line between said territory and said Sudbury, to a stone monument at the northeasterly corner of said territory, and at the Stow line ; thence in a northeasterly direction, as the present dividing line between said territory and the said town of Stow now runs, to a stone monument near the house of Abijah Wolcott ; thence in a direct continuation north, fifty-four degrees west, across a corner of said town of Stow, to a point on the county line between said Stow and Bolton ; thence in a southerly and southwesterly direction, as the county line between the counties of Middlesex and Worcester now runs, to the first mentioned bound."

This act being acceptable to the citizens of Hudson, they proceeded, according to its requirements, to organize themselves as a town. James T. Joslin, Esq., in virtue of a warrant issued by Charles H. Robinson, Esq., notified and warned the legal voters of the new town to assemble at Union Hall, in said town, on Saturday, the thirty-first day of March, 1866, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to organize by the choice of the necessary town officers. Pursuant to the warrant the citizens assembled, and in recognition of the ruling providence of God, on motion of David B. Goodale, Rev. H. C.

Dugan addressed the throne of grace, and implored the Divine blessing upon the infant town.

The citizens then proceeded to business, and chose George S. Rawson, *Moderator*, and Silas H. Stuart, *Town Clerk*, for the ensuing year. They further organized by choosing the following town officers:—Charles H. Robinson, George Houghton, Wm. F. Trowbridge, *Selectmen*; Alonzo Wood, George Stratton, Lyman Perry, *Assessors*; Augustus K. Graves, Luman T. Jefts, John A. Howe, *Overseers of the Poor*; Hiram C. Dugan, George S. Rawson, David B. Goodale, *School Committee*; Wm. L. Witham, *Constable*, and George L. Manson, *Treasurer*.

At a meeting legally called, April 16, 1866, George S. Rawson was chosen Moderator.

The remaining town offices were filled. The following appropriations were made:—

For Schools,	\$ 3,000
For Roads and Bridges,	800
For Contingent Expenses,	2,000
Voted to add to the appropriation made,	5,200
	<hr/>
	\$ 11,000

They also voted to pay their fire-engine men five dollars each. They chose James T. Joslin, Esq., Joseph S. Bradley, and Charles Brigham, a Committee to lay out and dispose of the lots in the Cemetery.

Francis Brigham, James T. Joslin, and George Houghton, were made a Committee to communicate to Charles Hudson the fact that the name of HUDSON was given to the town as a mark of respect to him. At the same meeting a list of Jurors was presented by the Selectmen, and accepted by the town, as follows:—

Francis D. Brigham.
 Benjamin Dearborn.
 David B. Goodale.
 Alden B. Gleason.
 Dana Howe.
 Luman T. Jefts.
 George S. Rawson.
 Edmund M. Stowe.
 James B. Whitney.
 George O. Bradley.
 W. H. Chamberlain.
 Horatio H. Hutchins.
 Alden A. Tarbell.
 Theodore Wilkins.
 Baxter F. Wheeler.

Joseph S. Bradley.
 Silas B. Fairbanks.
 Nahum A. Gay.
 Augustus K. Graves.
 Willard Houghton.
 Lyman Perry.
 George Stratton.
 Alonzo Wood.
 George D. Witt.
 Charles S. Buss.
 Reuben Hapgood.
 Silas E. Priest.
 James S. Welch.
 John L. Jewell.
 Elbridge G. Lewis.

We have given the names of the town officers, that those who come after us may know to whom they are indebted for the institutions which they have found built up for their enjoyment; and this list of jurors furnishes thirty men, deemed by their neighbors men of good character and sound judgment, and well qualified to weigh evidence and pass an intelligent decision upon the cases which come before our Courts.

The citizens of Hudson have not only shown by their thrift, that they have been stirring as business men, but their public records show that they have been active as townsmen, in preparing every thing for a prosperous municipal corporation. They directed their Selectmen to look well to the cess-pools, and abate all nuisances, and especially liquor nuisances. Their public officers were requested to consider the subject of supporting their paupers, and in a true Christian spirit were directed to furnish and erect suitable head-stones at the graves of their paupers, and those unable to supply them. The subject of a new school-house was duly considered; but the extension of their highways and townways appears to have engrossed a larger share of

attention ; and we venture to say that few, very few, towns in the Commonwealth, have done as much in so brief a period, as the town of Hudson, to increase and improve their roads.

We have already stated that a committee was appointed to inform Charles Hudson that the new town was named *Hudson*, as a compliment to him. This committee, at a town meeting in 1867, reported that they had conveyed the information of this fact to Mr. Hudson, and that they had received a long and satisfactory letter from that gentleman, in which he speaks approvingly of the enterprise of the town, and especially of the value of a *free public library*, and concludes with this proposition :—

“If the town of Hudson, at a legal meeting called for that purpose, vote to establish *a free town library for the use of all the inhabitants of the town*, and shall appropriate or otherwise secure the sum of five hundred dollars, to be devoted to that object, they may call upon me, my executors or administrators, for the like sum of five hundred dollars, to be expended in furtherance of that object.”

The committee recommended the acceptance of the proposition, and the town accordingly voted the sum mentioned, and then made choice of Messrs. James T. Joslin, David B. Goodale, and Luman T. Jefts, as a committee to select the books, and adopt all such measures as they might deem necessary to carry forward the enterprise. With a thousand dollars, and some other liberal donations, they were able to open a library in 1867, and with the additions that have been made, they have now a well selected library of about 2,300 volumes ; and the liberal appropriations made by the town give assurance of a continued interest felt in this institution,—important in every community, but

especially valuable in a manufacturing town, where the operatives have time to read, and generally a mind to improve it.

But the people were not only mindful of the living, but of the dead. At a meeting in April, 1866, James T. Joslin, Esq., Joseph S. Bradley, and Charles Brigham, were chosen a committee to lay out and dispose of the lots in the cemetery, and all money received was to be devoted to the improvement of the grounds. The place is pleasantly located, and the soil and surface are admirably adapted to the purpose for which it is designed. It contains six acres, and is handsomely laid out and the avenues are well graded. Most of the monumental stones are of marble, tastefully wrought. Any visitor will be struck by the seeming equality which characterizes the spot. The graveyard is no place for aristocratic display, and a community which furnishes headstones for their paupers, will, we presume, preserve a modest simplicity in their cemetery. It is in good taste now, and may it so continue.

A subject which engaged the attention of the citizens more than any other, was the need of acquiring a portion of land from Bolton. This arose not merely from an ambition to enlarge their borders, but from the fact that the territory desired, approached so near the village as to prevent its natural expansion. And besides, this Bolton territory furnished some of the best building land near the village of Hudson; people doing business there were unwilling to fix their residence in another town and county, and thus be cut off in all municipal affairs from their associates. It was in fact needed for the public benefit, and hence it was eagerly sought. The people residing there also, were anxious that it should become a part of Hudson. And Bolton, a purely agricultural town, began to

suspect that a hundred voters engaged in manufactures, and living at least three miles from the centre of their town, might become a troublesome element in their municipal affairs—and it might be wise to let them go. Consequently, they expressed a willingness to make some arrangement with Hudson, and sell out upon the best terms they could. The latter place, standing ready at all times to open negotiations on the subject, appointed Francis Brigham, Joseph S. Bradley, George Houghton, James T. Joslin, and A. K. Graves a committee, with certain individuals residing on the territory, to meet and make such an arrangement with the representatives of Bolton, as they might deem for the benefit the town. After full deliberation, it was agreed that “The question of where the proposed line in contemplation of a division of the town of Bolton, shall be established between said town of Bolton and the said town of Hudson, the terms on which the division of said town of Bolton and the annexation of a part thereof to said town of Hudson, shall be consummated,” shall be referred to three competent and disinterested persons, without the limits of the counties of Middlesex and Worcester; and Hon. James D. Colt of Pittsfield, Hon. George P. Sanger of Boston, and Hon. Josiah G. Abbott of Boston, were agreed upon as referees.

After visiting the premises, hearing the parties, and duly considering the subject, the arbitrators decided upon the dividing line, and after stating divers details, such as naturally present themselves in the division of towns, they provided that Bolton, upon the request of the town of Hudson, shall convey by sufficient deed, the said lot of land with its appurtenances to the town of Hudson. And that the town of Hudson shall pay to the town of Bolton, within three months from the passage of any act by the Legislature establishing the

said dividing line,* as the boundary between the towns of Bolton and Hudson, and annexing the territory within said line to the town of Hudson, the sum of ten thousand dollars, with interest from the twentieth day of February, 1868." This award, with the draft of an Act confirming the same, was submitted to the Legislature, and the Act was passed without opposition.

Thus ended the controversy between the two towns, and though the mode of settlement was a novel one, we are inclined to the belief that it was beneficial to both parties; it left Bolton with a good boundary line, and forever relieved her from an evil which she must have one day felt,—of a population uncongenial with her own,—and the ten thousand dollars would pay her for any loss of property which she sustained. And as to Hudson, the taxable property brought into the town, and the inducement which this arrangement offers to the inhabitants of the village, and others who are seeking a country residence, to settle upon this territory, will in the end more than reimburse any expense which may have been incurred. Besides, this acquisition greatly improves the shape of the town, and practically makes the village and places of business somewhat central, which, before this, were upon the very borders. On the whole, the citizens of Hudson have been very fortunate in their efforts for incorpora-

* This dividing line is as follows: "Beginning at a stone monument on the present boundary line between the counties of Worcester and Middlesex, at the south-westerly corner of the town of Stow, and at the northerly corner of the town of Hudson, thence running south eighty-six degrees west four hundred thirty-eight and twenty one hundredths rods to a stone monument at an angle; thence south sixty-six and one-half degrees west, three hundred and forty-six rods to the present dividing line between the said town of Bolton and the town of Berlin, in the county of Worcester; thence south fifty and one-fourth degrees east four hundred and fifty-seven rods along the said dividing line between Bolton and Berlin to the present line of the town of Hudson.

tion. While many communities which have aspired at a separate existence have struggled long, and when they have succeeded, have come out of great tribulation, the good people of Feltonville were able to obtain the consent of the parent town,* and subsequently so to arrange matters with Bolton, as to live in peace and harmony. And we think that great credit is due to all parties concerned, for the kind and accommodating manner in which they have met this subject.

After having laid out and constructed roads, provided for the schools, and whatever else was deemed necessary for the public prosperity, in 1871 it was decided to build a Town Hall, the cost of which should not exceed \$35,000, exclusive of the site, and Edmund M. Stowe, Francis Brigham, George Houghton, L. T. Jefts, and C. H. Robinson, were chosen a committee to carry the vote into effect. A plan was submitted and adopted, which will show the character of the house. The design represents a brick building about 55 by 97 feet on the ground, with a vestibule 17 by 34 feet. The elevation is two stories, with a French roof and tower; granite underpinning, granite keystones at the top of arched windows, granite steps at each entrance, and a granite belt inserted in the outside wall between the first and second story, extending entirely around the building. The lower story is 12

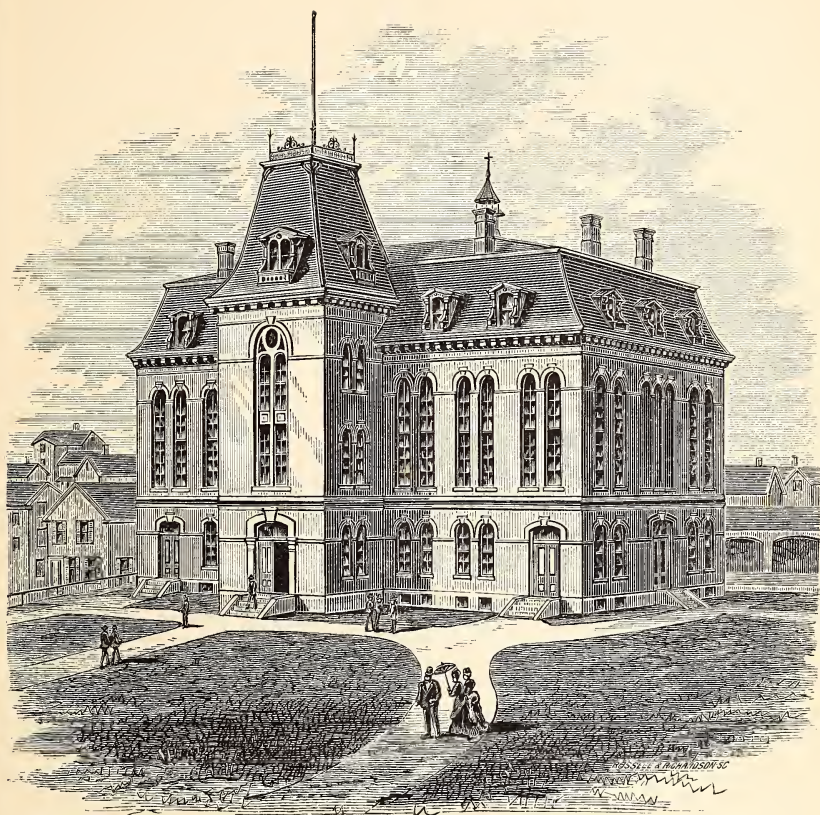
* We have before mentioned the good feeling always existing between the different parts of Marlborough, and the fact that its citizens offered little or no opposition to the wishes of the northern portion in establishing a separate municipality. If any further evidence were necessary to show the readiness of Marlborough to recognize the rights and respect the feelings of the citizens of what is now Hudson, the fact might be mentioned, that when the town, in 1862, celebrated her bi-centennial, David B. Goodale, George E. Manson, and Charles Brigham were put upon the Committee of Arrangements; and when a list of the officers for the day was agreed upon, Col. William H. Wood was selected as Chief Marshal, with Capt. Francis Brigham as his assistant, and Stephen Pope, Ezekiel Bruce, Jabez Rice, and John Goodale were among the Vice-Presidents. This was a just recognition of the standing of the men from the northern part of old Marlborough.



THE TOWN HALL, HUDSON, MASS.

DESIGNED BY
RUSSELL & VINTAGE

ARCHITECT
E. S. WOODCOCK JR.



THE TOWN HALL, HUDSON, MASS.

From a Photograph by
RUSSELL B. LEWIS, Hudson.

Architect,
S. S. WOODCOCK, Boston.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PLATE 11. "BEAD" DESIGN
No. 10, 21431. 7/11/34

2. 21432. 7/11/34

feet in height inside, when finished, and contains a number of rooms designed for various uses of the town, also a large fire-proof safe, and four cells or lock-ups. The second story is 22 feet in height, when finished, and contains the main hall, with gallery, stage, &c. Above this story are a number of rooms, enclosed within the French roof.

The committee were subsequently authorized to employ such means for heating the building, and to furnish the same in such a manner as in their judgment the case might demand; and they were instructed to cause the building to be properly fitted up with gas pipes and all necessary plumbing apparatus.

The Town Hall having been completed, was publicly dedicated, September 26, 1872. The building is well located, most thoroughly finished, and makes a fine and imposing appearance. It is a substantial, and at the same time a beautiful structure, and admirably adapted to the purposes for which it was erected. But few towns in the county can boast a town hall as ornamental and as convenient as this. It cost, with its furniture, \$48,531; the site and the grading cost \$10,000, making a total cost of \$58,530. It is situated in the immediate neighborhood of three handsome churches, and taken together they present quite a city-like appearance.

The people residing in that part of Marlborough which is now the village of Hudson, early manifested a deep interest in the subject of education. When citizens of Marlborough, they urged the matter of better accommodation for their children, there being but one school house on the territory under consideration, and that, (near Amos Ray's,) was nearly two miles from the "mills," as the village was then called. And what made it still worse, was the fact that there was no open.

direct road to the school house. This inconvenience was so seriously felt, that some of the families employed a private teacher. But after a struggle of several years, they succeeded, in 1812, in being made a new and additional district, and a school house was erected on the road leading to the centre of the town, about a hundred rods south of the river. Such was the opposition to this measure, that it was openly declared that at the adjournment of the meeting, the vote to build the school house should be rescinded. But such was the zeal of the citizens in the village, that trees standing in the forest when the vote was passed, were standing in a frame house, covered with boards, clapboards and shingles, before the day to which the meeting had been adjourned. Marlborough was for a time rather behind her sister towns in her appropriations for schools, but about 1850 a new interest was awakened, and several new school houses were erected. The appropriation in 1856 was but \$2,220; in 1860 it was increased to \$3,910, and a high school had also been established, not only in the centre, but at Feltonville. About 1855, the house built in 1812 was abandoned, and a larger and better one erected on School street, near the river; and here the Feltonville high school was kept till after the town was incorporated.

Since that time Hudson has not been unmindful of the cause of education. The citizens have built one school house in the westerly part of the town, one in the easterly part, and one on the road leading from the depot to Marlborough. But perhaps the most important, and certainly the most expensive edifice, was one erected in 1867 for the High School, which cost between five and six thousand dollars. The appropriations for the schools have always been liberal. There is, perhaps, no surer index of the intelligence, culture,

and prosperity of any town, than the interest manifested in its public schools. There may be a few families actuated by a false pride, who will maintain a select school for the education of their children, where there is little or no interest felt in the community at large. But where the people generally, the voters in any town, come forward year after year, and consent to be taxed for the support of schools, where the rich and the poor can send their children to obtain that instruction which will fit them for future usefulness, we may safely infer that the value of free schools is justly appreciated.

The town of Hudson can present a good record in this respect. With a population of some nineteen hundred inhabitants, at their first meeting after they were incorporated, they appropriated \$3,000 for the support of education. We have already seen that in the short space of a single decade, they have built four good school houses, which would seem to indicate that they had an interest in the welfare of their children. But they have shown that they do not trust to houses alone for the diffusion of knowledge. They have been sensible that money forms not only the sinews of war, but the support of moral and intellectual instruction. And hence they have raised their appropriation for schools from \$3,000 in 1866 to \$5,000 in 1870, and \$6,300 in 1876. They have also endeavored to improve the qualifications of their instructors, as is indicated by the increase of the pay of the high school teacher from \$800 to \$1,200, and the teachers in the district schools in the same proportion. Such facts reflect the intelligence of the people, and give assurance that their children will rise up and call them blessed.

As temporal and moral welfare are more or less blended, and the safety of life and property are intimately connected, it cannot be amiss to state the efforts

which have been directed to the protection of both against the devouring element which, within a few years, has desolated some of the principal cities in our country. Hudson has a full and perfectly organized Fire Department, — three engineers, one full and complete company, and an engine equal to any in the community. The shoe and other manufactures employing a large number of hands, the engine company is not composed of young boys or feeble individuals, but of active, stalwart men, whose power and skill at the brakes have been admitted in well-contested fields. They have another, an impromptu company, which is ready and can do good service in the village. The box manufacturing company have a force pump and hose, and Brigham & Company also have a force pump driven by water, and Houghton one by steam. These pumps have great power, and considering their location, can do a great deal towards checking or extinguishing a fire, should one break out. There is also a good Hook and Ladder company connected with the Department.

And while they strive to save property from the flames, the citizens have furnished means of saving the earnings of honest toil from dangers as great and more insidious than flaming fire. They have a well regulated *Savings Bank*, with an aggregate deposit of about \$250,000.

Though Hudson may be regarded as a good agricultural town, and many of her farms are rich and fertile, she is more distinguished for the production of her workshops than the fruits of her soil. The shoe manufacture is the business that has built up the place and given her a distinctive character. Nowhere in the State is the shoe trade carried on more systematically, or is so great a per cent. of modern improved machinery to be found as in Hudson. Other,

and older, and larger towns, have more machinery, it may be, and some as modern and improved as that of Hudson, but being longer in business they still have some of their old machinery in use, and adhere to their old habits, so that they naturally have both old and new intermingled. But in Hudson, the introduction of the business being recent, their shops and their machinery are all of the most approved character. The shops are of modern construction, two and three stories, high studded, a wide hall extending the length of the building, with large rooms or halls upon each side, well lighted and ventilated, and heated with steam. As these buildings are separate and isolated, the best light and air can be enjoyed, and they are comparatively safe from fire in consequence of their position, and the hose and other appliances which they possess. The reputation of the Hudson shoe factories was such that when the Japanese Embassy visited this country, and the Boston merchants and manufacturers intended to show them the best specimens of our productions, after taking them to Lowell and Lawrence, to exhibit the facility of weaving cloth, they conducted their guests to Hudson, to show them the best system of making shoes.

We have no disposition to attempt even a brief description of the methods employed. Suffice it to say that there is a great division of labor. The heels, the soles, and the uppers, the sewing, the pegging, the buffing, and the polishing, are all separate processes, and are performed by different hands; other parts of the business require appliances of labor or machinery. Skill and economy are observed in cutting, which is done by dies, and as shoes are made for women, misses, and children, a piece of leather not large enough for a woman's, may answer for a miss, and what is too small for her may answer for a child, and what cannot be cut into a

shoe, may be sent into another department, to be manufactured into heels, where the same assortment of sizes takes place. There is also in the village a striking illustration of the principle that one thing calls for another. Shoes are made upon *lasts*, and hence a factory is established, which turns out fifty thousand lasts annually. And as the heels and the leather generally are cut by *dies*, these articles are in demand, and hence an establishment for their manufacture has been set up, with sales to the amount of \$75,000 in the year. The lasts and the dies here produced are not all consumed in the place, but the domestic demand undoubtedly gave birth to the manufacture. Then the shoes, when prepared for the market, must be boxed up, and this calls for a box factory, and one is found in the village, demanding not only laborers, but requiring lumber and all the appliances of the lumber business. The annual product of the factory is \$18,000. The tannery in the village is almost a branch of the shoe trade, and they all combine to aid one another.

In speaking of the thrift and employments of the place, we ought to mention a large piano factory, which was established and well under way, when it fell a prey to the devouring element. But the enterprising proprietors are preparing to continue the business, notwithstanding the fire.

The ordinary mechanics, — the carpenter and the mason, the painter and the plumber, — find their business affected directly by the growth of manufactures, and the tillers of the soil participate in the same prosperity. Land within miles of the village would rise or fall in value, as the shoe business was prosperous or depressed. The effect of these various branches of trade will be seen, when we consider that in 1820, there were only thirteen or fourteen dwelling houses and one

store in the place. The only thing that sustained the village at that period was its water power, driving a grist and saw mill, a cloth dressing establishment and a small cotton factory. Now, the dwellings there are about four hundred, and instead of a single English and West India goods store, there are now six such stores; there are also five provision stores, two shoe stores, three dressmakers and milliners' shops, two tailors' shops, two grain and flour stores, one jeweller's shop, two apothecary and druggist stores, one hardware store, two tinmen's shops, where stoves, pumps, &c., are found, one paint and oil store, two machine shops, two dealers in wood and coal, one lumber yard, three paint shops, two box factories, one photographer's gallery, one toy shop, one book and toy store, one post-office, with a newspaper and stationery shop attached, three livery stables, one hotel, three eating houses, one printing office, one bakery, and three custom shoemakers' shops. There are also several professional men and mechanics, who have places of business or residence, which should be mentioned, to show the accommodation and resources of the village. Three physicians, two dentists, one veterinary surgeon, two lawyers' offices, one plumber, three barbers, two master masons or contractors, three insurance agencies and conveyancers, one ice-house and dealer, three green houses, with vegetables and flowers for sale.

The population, when the town was incorporated in 1866, was about 1,800; in 1875 it was 3,493. It is true that this increase of population was aided by the acquisition from Bolton; but this Bolton population was the product of the Hudson manufactories. In May, 1875, the number of polls in Hudson was 930; the personal property was valued at \$280,413, and the real

estate at \$1,464,865, making a grand total of \$1,745,278. The number of dwelling houses at that time was 615.

Although the earth may yield her increase, and the ordinary mechanical industry may add to the wealth and advance the prosperity of the place, yet it must be confessed, that manufacturing, and that of shoes in particular, must be regarded as the life blood of the village, which circulates through the whole system, and warms and invigorates every member. But the present is an unfortunate time to show the product of the shops. The depression of business in every department of industry, falls heavily upon the shoe manufacture, and consequently reduces the product and the number of hands, and so lessens the amount paid out monthly to the laborers. But, even as it is, the show is very flattering.

The capital employed in the five principal factories, viz: Francis Brigham & Co's., Wm. F. Trowbridge's, George Houghton's, Luman T. Jefts, and Stowe, Bills & Whitney's, is \$410,000, and the annual production of shoes is 1,715,000 pairs, the estimated value of sales is \$1,415,000; giving employment to 1,000 persons, 315 of whom are females. The united pay of the laborers is \$320,000 a year, or \$26,666 a month. The effect upon any country village of having twenty-six thousand dollars distributed monthly, can easily be conceived, as it is well known that the sums thus paid out, by passing from hand to hand, will pay a large number of debts, or procure many necessities and luxuries of life, and thus produce a state of general prosperity. So much for the shoe business alone. But there are other branches of manufacture connected with or dependent upon the shoe manufacture, which should be taken into the account. The tannery, the die factory, the last factory, and the box factory, furnish a capital of more than

\$110,000, and employ some 120 hands, whose monthly pay would be some \$6,000; so that the present depressed state of business, actually taken in the aggregate, ensures a payment for labor of about \$33,000 dollars per month.

One pleasant feature of this prosperity is, that it is produced by the industry of the village. In many instances where a manufacturing village grows up rapidly, it is the effect of combined foreign capital. This in fact was true of Lowell and Lawrence. But in the case of Hudson, there was no such foreign aid. No combined capital from abroad, — no rich individual outside the town, has built up the place. On the contrary, the money here invested is village capital, earned by labor and toil performed mostly in the village itself. And it is a fact, that the principal owners of these large establishments, and the men who have done most to build up the place, have commenced life without means, and owe their success to their own efforts. This is especially true of Francis Brigham, the largest capitalist in the place, who first started the shoe manufacture in the village, and has contributed so largely to the growth of Hudson. This fact produces a better state of things than would be likely to exist, if one overgrown capitalist, or a foreign corporation, owned the property and controlled the destiny of the town.

But though Hudson has been actively engaged in worldly affairs, and has spent her money freely to promote temporal prosperity, she has not been unmindful of her moral and spiritual interests. From the first, the cause of temperance and good order has engaged the attention of the inhabitants, and it is believed that there is less of dissipation and disorder here than in most manufacturing villages. That restlessness and insubordination, — that jealousy of the success and

hatred of capital, and those disgraceful strikes which have converted some manufacturing towns into a bedlam, have not disturbed the peace of Hudson, or created a hostility between the employers and employed.

Nor has their religious interest been neglected. Long before they aspired to be a town, religious societies were formed, and preaching to a certain extent was maintained ; and, a catholic spirit prevailing, the village enjoyed a stated ministry long before any one sect would have been able to build a church, or support a minister. The first house of worship was possessed by the Baptists, who have maintained regular preaching for some twenty years. Their edifice was rather small, though neat and convenient ; but in accordance with the spirit of the age, the parish desired something more elegant and tasteful, and have just erected a house about one hundred feet by fifty, having two towers, and estimated to cost \$16,000. The Unitarians have a neat, commodious house, built about 1861. The Methodists have a handsome church, but a short distance from the others, although, being on the southerly side of the main street, it is on lower ground, and hence is not quite as pleasantly located. They are all situated in the immediate neighborhood of each other, giving a significant indication, that as they all hope to enjoy one peaceful rest in another world, they are willing to approximate each other on earth ; and to their honor be it said, they manifest a liberal spirit, and are disposed to treat each other as brethren. These societies are supplied with regular religious instruction, and may be said to be in a prosperous condition. But we must not omit the Roman Catholic or Saint Michael's Church. It was organized by Father M. T. MacGuire in 1869. Their house,

though not in the group of the other churches, is a handsome building, situated on the hill, where it overlooks the others. They all dwell together in harmony.

The newspaper press doubtless exerts a considerable influence everywhere for good or evil on public opinion. It is obvious that local country papers cannot secure the circulation and support, and hence cannot command the talent, of the city journals, and consequently their influence will be less. Yet if the local press takes high and honorable ground, and avoids local scandal and mere party contests, it will furnish much intelligence, which will be pleasing and profitable to the community. Such a publication Hudson has enjoyed for a dozen years. In 1859 Mr. S. B. Pratt issued a paper in Marlborough, called the *Mirror*, which was liberally patronized in Feltonville ; but about 1864, having passed into different hands, it was given up. In the following year, Mr. C. A. Wood purchased the type and presses, and moved them to Hudson, where he started the "*Hudson Pioneer*." The pecuniary interest of the establishment has since that period changed hands several times, but the paper has remained, and is now in its twelfth volume. It is a neat sheet of eight columns, well printed, on good paper, and appears to be ably conducted.

It is a striking fact that printing generally follows close upon civilization, and the first issues of the press are a pretty sure exponent of the wants and feelings of the people. The first printing press set up in New England, was at Cambridge in 1638, in almost immediate connection with Harvard College, and this was ninety years earlier than any press was established in Virginia ; and the first issues from this press at Cambridge are so suggestive of the popular sentiment

that I will state the first five issues in the order of their appearance : The Freeman's Oath, an Almanac, a Psalm Book, a Catechism, and a book of laws entitled A Body of Liberties. Here we have a portraiture of our Puritan Fathers—a kind of pictorial representation of their thoughts and feelings, their manners and customs. Their Bibles, which they brought with them from England, were of course first read ; then The Freeman's Oath must be taken ; next the Almanac consulted to learn the signs of the times ; then they were prepared to join in a Psalm of praise, and to teach their children the Catechism, and after that they were prepared to study their Body of Liberties, and when they had learned their rights, they were ready to assert them in any presence, and to defend them at any hazard, whoever might be the aggressor.

We have already practically given the boundaries of Hudson, so that nothing is wanting to fix the locality, but to say that it is situated in the northwestern corner of the county of Middlesex, and is about twenty-six miles from Boston, and about twelve miles from Concord. The natural features of the township are attractive. Situated in the valley of the Assabet, there are no rugged mountains on the one hand, or sunken swamps on the other. While the general surface is substantially level, there is that pleasing variety of gentle swells, which attract attention and give beauty to a landscape. Mount Assabet, near the village, rises on the south side of the river, directly opposite the principal settlement, to the height of from one hundred to two hundred feet and, to use a military phrase, " commands " the whole village, and a large portion of that section of the town. This graceful swell of land is productive, and capable of cultivation to the very summit, and would afford elegant sites for those

magnificent mansions in which retired capitalists delight to indulge. There are a number of these gradual elevations within a mile of the village, which would afford beautiful country seats. The roads are remarkably good, furnishing rural and inviting drives in this and the neighboring towns. The railroad, passing through the centre, connects the village with Boston, Lowell, Concord and Cambridge on the east, and with Fitchburg, Brattleborough, Keene and Greenfield on the west. There is also a railroad substantially completed to Lancaster, a distance of eight or ten miles, which will open another line of communication with the towns on the north. The Massachusetts Central Railroad is located directly through the village, and if that should be completed, it would make Hudson a grand railroad centre ; and if the other towns on the line of this contemplated road, would show the same public spirit, and afford pecuniary aid in proportion to this young and liberal town, that line of communication would not long hang in doubt.

The village of Hudson is not only well located, but is handsomely laid out. The streets are wide and well graded, and all adorned with trees blushing into youthful, leafy beauty. The streets are kept clean and unobstructed, and well lighted by night. There is nothing in the general plan or arrangement in the village to be regretted, except the neglect too common in laying out new towns, to reserve land in a suitable locality for a town common or a public park. But it is hoped that this omission will be supplied at no distant day. The convenience, beauty, and health of the place would be promoted by such a park, and the good sense and enterprise of the people will soon demand such a luxury, where the pent air of the work-shops can be exchanged for the fresh breezes of an open square.

One characteristic of the village must strike every visitor as one of its attractions. Though the dwellings are not remarkable for their size, or the splendor of their architecture, they are marked for neatness and good taste, and for that apparent equality which dispels the idea of master and servant. But what adds greatly to the beauty and comfort of the place is, that the houses of recent erection, and this includes most of them, are placed at such a distance from the streets, as to give a handsome front yard and grass plat, which protects the house from the gaze and dust of the street. And these plats between the house and the front fence, are generally adorned by flowers and shrubbery, which, with the avenues of maples marking the side-walks, give to the street, the yard and the house, a cheerful, rural appearance which must impress every beholder.

But leaving the village, there is no reason to be ashamed of Hudson as a township. Nearly the whole territory is capable of cultivation, and the township furnishes many excellent farms. The eastern part has a portion of light soil, but such lands are well adapted to grain, and with high culture will yield a good crop of corn, with less labor than is required on stronger and more rugged soils; and when laid down in a good condition, will yield two or three fine crops of hay. Such land is well adapted to root crops and vegetable gardening, and a portion is desirable on every farm.

The territory of Hudson is well watered by the Assabet river and its tributaries. It has also a considerable stream from Berlin, which flows into the mill-pond, and furnishes a good privilege for light work. There is another considerable stream from Bolton, bearing the old Indian name of *Wattaquaddock*, which unites with the Assabet at the lower end of the village, furnishing water for the tannery, and affording some

small privileges above. Fort Meadow brook, below the reservoir, traverses a large section of the town. These streams, with the other rivulets and rills which feed them, furnish all that is necessary for the common uses of agriculture, such as water in the pastures and about the different parts of the farms.

On the whole, taking into view the nature of the soil, the topography of the township, the salubrity of the atmosphere, and the peaceable disposition of the inhabitants, with their admitted enterprise and thrift, Hudson will not suffer by a comparison with any of her neighboring towns. And if we add the facilities of communication, it will at once appear that she actually holds out more inducements to people to take up their abode within her borders, than any town in the region.

Fellow Citizens, I have detained you too long with the dry details of your own local affairs, which may perhaps cramp your broad views and generous emotions. You must realize that you are assembled as American citizens, to celebrate one of the most important events in modern history—the emancipation of one continent, and the modification of the institutions of another. We are assembled to commemorate the birth of freedom, the equality of man, and his right to self-government. Though these doctrines appear to us to be self-evident, they were a century ago unknown, or, perhaps more truly, unacknowledged by the nations of the earth. We have met not merely to enjoy the pleasures and the festivities of the day, but to do homage to the memory of our ancestors, whose mature wisdom, cool deliberation, and unflinching devotion to moral principle, enabled, nay, compelled them to stand

erect before the world, defying Acts of Parliament, Orders in Council, and decisions of Courts of Admiralty—nay more, defying the sword and halter of a haughty nation, before whose arms the powers of Europe had trembled.

Our fathers were politicians in the best sense of that term—they were statesmen, who had studied the science of civil government, and understood the true relations between the rulers and the ruled. They were perfectly acquainted with the principles discussed in the English Revolution, and saw most clearly that the measures adopted by the ministry were totally repugnant to the principles for which they had contended; and our statesmen were fully convinced that the ministry, and not we, were trampling upon the fundamental doctrines of the English Constitution. Seeing this, they knew the path of duty, and their course was a plain one. It seems that in this case, as in all others, men were reared up for the occasion,—men who ‘knew their rights, and, knowing, dared maintain them.’ And among the prominent men who declared our independence, Massachusetts furnished her full share. John Adams was on the Committee which prepared the Declaration, and was its principal advocate in Congress. John Hancock, as President of Congress, was the first to sign that instrument, and in fact did set that bold and almost defiant hand to the document, before it was known that it would bear any other signature. And there was another Massachusetts man, whose name is borne upon that scroll, who does not appear as the first signer, or as the advocate on the floor of the house, but who had done more than any other man in the country to expose the injustice of Parliament,—to satisfy our people of their duty, and prepare the Colonies for self-government. You know, fellow citizens,

that I must allude to Samuel Adams, who, by common consent, is allowed to be the *Organizer of the American Revolution*.

These are the men whom the country has delighted to honor, and these are the men we can safely hold up for the imitation of our children. Hancock and Adams* were the men whom Gage in his proclamation exempted from his promised pardon,—declaring their crime “too flagitious to merit anything but condign punishment.” And what were the crimes of which these distinguished patriots were guilty? What had they done to expose them to the treatment that Gage had recommended, — *to be sent to England to be tried for treason*, — where he well knew they would be convicted. They had simply taught the people their rights as English subjects, and complained of the ministry and Parliament, because they had trampled upon their own organic law.

But, fellow citizens, while we acknowledge the services of these men, we should strive to imitate their virtues. Like Hancock, we should be ready to sacrifice our fortunes on the altar of our country, if the exigency should demand it. But, thank Heaven, we are not required at this day to make such a sacrifice: yet we are required to refrain from those peculations, — those wholesale swindles, which have destroyed so many other men, and brought such a stigma upon the character of a free government. Nor are we called, like Adams, to devote our whole time to the cause of our country, without any adequate compensation; yet we should imitate his disinterestedness, practice his simple economy, and, above all things, adhere to that stern rectitude which nothing could bend. As our institutions were planted in integrity, and high moral principles actuated our fathers,—the same integrity, the

* See portraits at the end of the pamphlet.

same moral principle, is required to continue our country prosperous and happy.

I am aware that it has often been said that our institutions must rest upon education. This is undoubtedly true, if the education is what it should be. If moral, physical and intellectual culture are combined, it furnishes a sure basis for free institutions. But a mere intellectual education, where moral principle is discarded, is very far from furnishing a sure basis for a free government. Such an education is a mere motive power, — a centrifugal force, a facility to action ; but whether that action be right or wrong, whether it conduct the possessor in the path of virtue, or in the road to ruin, depends upon the moral principle imbibed. In fact, in many cases, a mere intellectual and physical education will make a man a more expert villain than he could be without that training ; a skill in chirography may make a good clerk or an expert counterfeiter ; a knowledge of mechanism may produce a good mechanic or an accomplished burglar. So of other arts ; eloquence may be employed to “clear the guilty or to varnish crimes,” and all the accomplishments of life may be made subservient to vice as well as to virtue. The observation we are compelled to take, shows that intellectual culture alone will neither save the individual from vice, nor our country from ruin. The arch traitors have generally been educated men.

“ If parts allure thee, think how Bacon shined,
The wisest, brightest, *meanest* of mankind.”

No, fellow citizens, the highest education, without moral principle, is not sufficient to guide the individual, or sustain the Republic. Culture is not to be discarded ; but we need something more. The projectile force given to the planets is necessary to keep them in

motion ; but it is the gravitating power which keeps them in their orbits, and compels them to pursue those regular and graceful circles which preserve the harmony of the spheres. We want knowledge — a knowledge of our country's rights — a knowledge of those fundamental principles which give stability to institutions and permanency to empires. But this knowledge must be sanctified. It must be a knowledge drawn from a divine source — a full recognition that God rules the world in righteousness, and that human governments will prosper just as they copy the principles of the divine. We need a firm attachment to our country, and a love of her institutions ; but this love of country, this attachment for her institutions and laws must be based on a conviction that they are right, are such as heaven approves. Patriotism, when enlightened, should be classed among the Christian virtues, and should be cultivated as a source of happiness to ourselves, devotion to the best interests of others, and fidelity to Him who fixes the destinies of nations. That spirit of conquest which would wantonly strive to dismember a foreign nation, even though it would enlarge our own country, cannot be true patriotism ; and that attempt at plunder of which we have so many rumors, must be regarded as a gross departure from the principles which led to our independence.

Nations, like individuals, have their fate in their own hands. Ambition and vice are destructive of the final success of both. The Ruler of nations has fixed a penalty to disobedience, and though He is long-suffering, the day of reckoning is sure to come. If we appreciate our blessings, and rightly improve our privileges, we may trust that our nation will continue to prosper, and the influence of free institutions will be felt more and more in every quarter of the globe. But

if we yield to the allurements of vice, and disregard the moral character of our rulers, and suffer venality and corruption to reign in high places, we may expect that the day will come, when our republic may be classed with others which have come and gone, and left the sad reflection, that the people are not capable of self-government.

Fellow Citizens of Hudson : While I congratulate you on this Anniversary, on the success of our experiment of self-government, and rejoice with you in the growth of the Republic, and the consolidation of the Union, I cannot withhold my exultation over your local success and prosperity. From a small village, consisting of a few dwellings, where the life-blood of the place was simply the gentle flow of the Assabet, and the stillness of the place was broken only by the croaking of the frogs and the clack of the mill, you have grown to be a prosperous town of nearly four thousand inhabitants, filling the village with the hum of industry, and sending your manufactured products to every part of the country.

And while your hearts are swelling with gratitude for your signal success, you will permit me, I am sure, to join in your rejoicing, and assure you of the interest I feel in your welfare. My knowledge of this section of the parent town, extends back about three-quarters of a century, and my attachment is co-existent with my knowledge ; and it would be affectation not to confess that the honor you have conferred upon me, in naming your town, has revived the interest I have always felt in the prosperity of the place. Here were the sports of my childhood, and here the riper reflections of my youthful days. In your village school I spent several winters with the children and youth of the place, most

of whom have long since passed to a higher seminary, and have received, we hope, purer instruction than earthly schools afford. Here were breathed my first aspirations for future success in life ; and here was cherished that cheering consciousness, that our fate is in a great degree in our hands. I look back with pleasure to those early days, and seem to live my life over again in joyful anticipation and happiness.

“ How dear to this heart are the scenes of my childhood,
 When fond recollection presents them to view !
 The orchard, the meadow, the deep-tangled wildwood,
 And every loved spot which my infancy knew.
 The wide-spreading pond and the mill that stood by it,
 The bridge, and the rock where the cataract fell ;
 * * * * *
 And e'en the rude bucket which hung in the well.

That moss-covered vessel I hailed as a treasure ;
 For often at noon, when returned from the field,
 I found it a source of an exquisite pleasure,
 The purest and sweetest that nature can yield.
 How ardent I seized it with hands that were glowing,
 And quick to the white-pebbled bottom it fell ;
 Then soon, with the emblem of truth overflowing,
 And dripping with coolness, it rose from the well.

How sweet from the green, mossy brim to receive it,
 As poised on the curb, it inclined to my lips !
 Not a full, blushing goblet could tempt me to leave it,
 Though filled with the nectar that Jupiter sips.”

But many of the outward, visible things have passed away, or have been materially changed. The characteristics impressed by nature have generally remained. Old *Prospect Hill*, with his wood-capped summit, presents his rugged front, and looks steadily upon *West Hill* and *Addition Hill*, as if to mourn with them for the loss of their leafy crests, — while upon the left he looks upon *Tophet Swamp*, and seems to rejoice at its improved condition. *Mount Assabet*, the pride of the

village, with her rounded grassy summit, smiles benignantly upon the whole region, and beholds the people gathering around her base, like the Israelites around Mount Sinai, as if to receive instruction and guidance. At the same time, the gentle Assabet is flowing gracefully down her valley, thankfully receiving in the mill-pond her tributary from Berlin, and her equally acceptable Indian ally, the *Wataquadock*, from Bolton, to fill the vats at the tanyard, and aid in that ancient branch of manufacture. In these bold outlines, fixed by nature, there is a permanency ; but in all else, how changed ! Houses cover what I have known as grass plats, streets traverse what were formerly corn fields, and stately buildings rear their bold and imposing fronts to show the progress of manufacturing industry and enterprise. In this way, the small ancient shop near the Bolton line, at what has been known as the Cox place, and the shoe shop perched on the ledge, now departed, east of the residence of the late Colonel Wood, have not only been thrown into the shade, but have been annihilated, and *Bruce*, and *Dunn*, and other honest workmen, who were willing to labor to the *last*, that they might mend the *soles* of their neighbors, have been compelled to give place to more ambitious laborers, who, overlooking their immediate neighbors, aspire at furnishing new *soles* and *bodies* to people by the thousand, in distant parts of the country.

But while I can look upon these changes with complacency, if not with delight, there is another class of changes which fills me with sadness. "Our fathers, where are they !" When I pass through your village, and see your streets teeming with people engaged in active business, and stop to see your Felton, and Wood, and Peters, and Witt, and Pope, and others whose faces were familiar, I realize that they are departed, and

if their places are filled at all, they are filled by their children, and perhaps in a majority of cases by their children's children! Such is the order of Providence. And it reminds you and me, and all of us, that we should so improve our time and opportunities, that we may leave as fair a character as the founders of your village. We shall perish, but your town will remain; and as long as I am permitted to observe the growth or decline of human institutions, my benisons shall rest upon your pleasant town, trusting that your church spires, pointing towards heaven, may bring down upon yourselves and your institutions, that fostering care and protection, which will make you a happy and a prosperous community while you are living, and that when you are sleeping with your fathers, your town may prosper and reflect the worth of its founders.

OUR COUNTRY'S CENTENNIAL

AND

HUDSON'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY.

BY MISS PHEBE A. HOLDER.

"The Winds with wonder whist
Smoothly the Waters kist."—MILTON.

THUS comes for us, this year of gold,
The Nation's day—a century old ;
Of suffering born, in conflict proved,
Our freedom won, the price of blood.
Now Peace, her white-winged dove sends forth,
With leaf of blessing o'er the earth.

Ring out, glad bells, with silver voice,
A chime to bid all hearts rejoice.
The hill-tops catch the clear refrain,
And quiet vales take up the strain ;
The echoes wake on land and sea,
The anthem of our jubilee.

The warm, bright skies of Summer bend
In beauty o'er the smiling land ;
With queenly robes she decks the earth
In honor of our Nation's birth,
And the blue waves are softly kissed
By winds in wondering silence whist.

The precious things of heaven are ours,
 Of suns, of dews, of falling showers ;
 Of lasting hills, of mountains old,
 Things of the deep, and mines of gold ;
 The buds of spring, the summer flowers,
 The harvest wealth that Autumn pours.

And precious joys of home we share,
 Sweet homes like bowers of Eden fair,
 With every bright and lovely thing,
 The taste may seek, or love can bring ;
 Homes rich with gifts the Lord hath given,
 An earthly dream of home in heaven.

Rare gifts of mind, of cultured thought,
 To minds with answering gifts are brought ;
 The poet's dream, the singer's lyre,
 The artist's soul, the statesman's fire,
 All glow 'neath Freedom's fostering ray,
 All ours, who live in this glad day.

God of the nations, who hath blessed
 Our father's land from east to west,
 Whose bounteous hand has given all,
 In grateful love, Thy Name we call !
 In glad thanksgiving lift the voice,
 And in the Lord, our God, rejoice.

This day, the Century's cycle, fills ;
 The vast heart of the Nation thrills :
 And patriot fires more brightly glow,
 Kindled at Freedom's shrine anew.
 The Century's Fourth—our country's own—
 Comes like the glorious sun of noon ;
 And while its wondrous anthem swells

Majestic as cathedral bells,
 Rising where first the Atlantic wave
 Pauses, New England's shores to lave,
 Rolling afar its music grand
 To the Pacific's golden strand,
We join the mighty symphony,
 The chorus of the century—
 Responding to the Nation's call
As one—a loyal heart in all—
 Our offering on this altar lay,
 Our tribute to this festal day.

And while our hearts are open wide
 To this vast joy, a flowing tide,
 Within the century's wreath we twine
 One simple spray from love's home vine.
 Amid the silent moving years
 No hundred on our roll appears ;
 A decade only may we claim
 Of separate life—with honored name
 Adding its lustre to our Town,
 And proudly worn, as queens their crown ;
 A newly risen light to grace
 Old Massachusetts' smiling face.

To loving eyes this vale is fair,
 As many spots more classic are.
 The silent dome of rounded hill,
 Green as in days of childhood still,
 Like sentinel, a guard to keep
 O'er peaceful homes below that sleep ;
 The Assabet, with gentle flow,
 Its waters blue as long ago ;
 Banks bright with fringing verdure still ;

The mimic fall where grinds the mill ;
 The graceful elm with limbs outspread,
 In leafy arches overhead ;
 Gardens, whose rare and lovely flowers,
 Seem like a dream of fairy bowers ;
 The sweet home lights, that brighter shine
 With beauty, caught at summer's shrine.

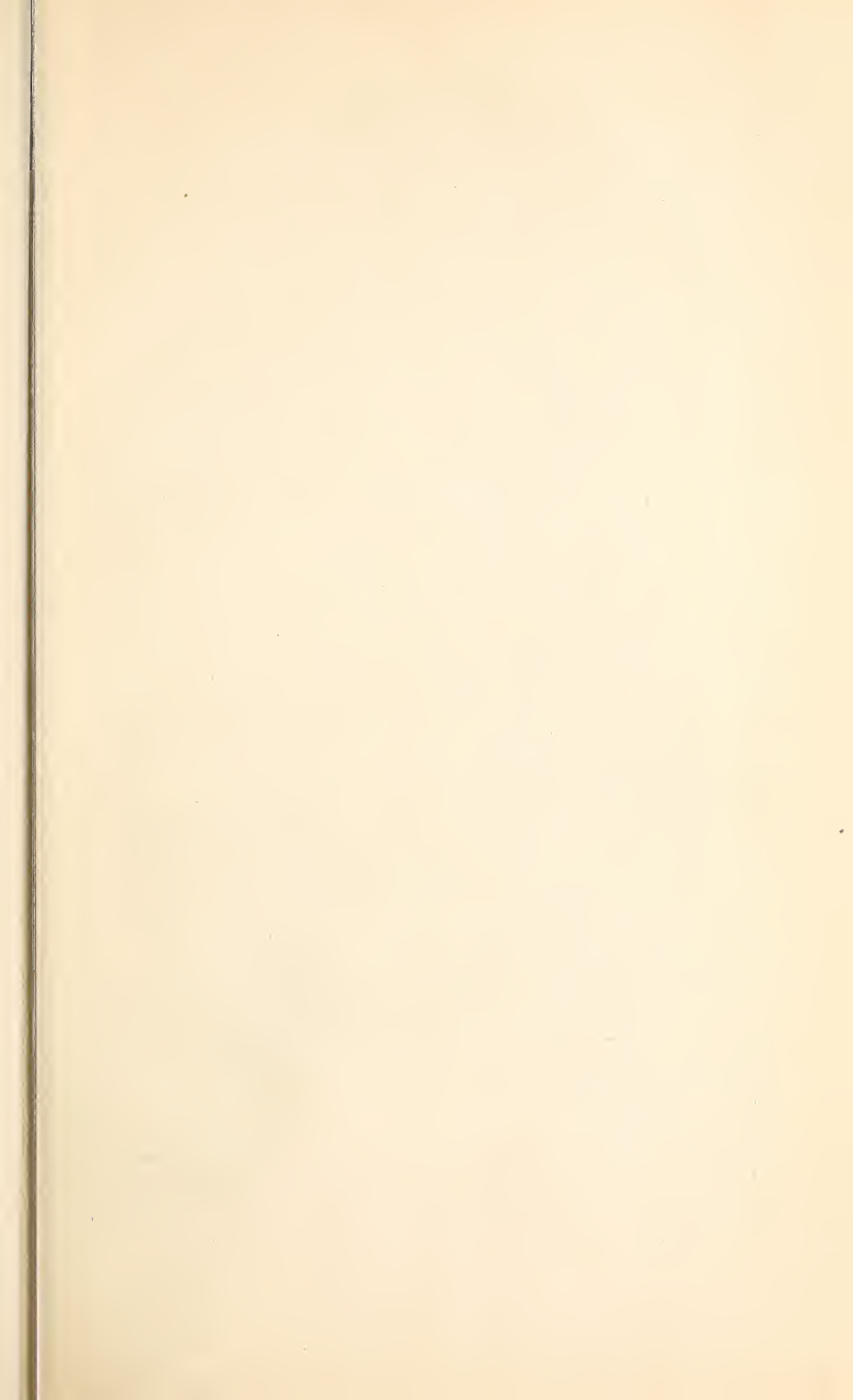
Amid our homes, like watch-towers rise,
 With signals pointing to the skies,
 The sacred temples of the Lord,
 Fraught with the blessings of His Word ;
 With sister influence standing near,
 The goodly shrines of Learning are,
 Where Knowledge opens wide her doors,
 And Science spreads her treasured stores.
 Trade has its varied wares outspread,
 And Wealth lifts up its stately head ;
 While Progress speeds her onward way
 With winged steps — no pause — no stay ;—
 Such marvels in her train unfold
 As in the magic tales of old ;
Aladdin-like to wondering eyes
 Palatial homes in beauty rise—
 Colossal blocks and structures tower
 Above the “modest shops” of yore,
 Filled with the hum of Industry,
 The fount of our prosperity.

Born 'neath the waning Century's light,
 Our youth with smiles of promise bright,
 On this Centennial height we stand.
 Afar and near an outlook grand :
 May all an impulse gain to-day

Nobler to tread life's future way,
 To set our aims, our purpose high,
 Worthy our Pilgrim ancestry.
 Men — centuries — pass ; good deeds remain
 A halo round an honored name ;
 And shining lives with influence sweet
 Still shine, though Life's sun long hath set.
 Such lives be ours ! A light to grace
 The Town that gives us home and place ;
 True to ourselves and to our God,
 Keep close in Virtue's upward road !

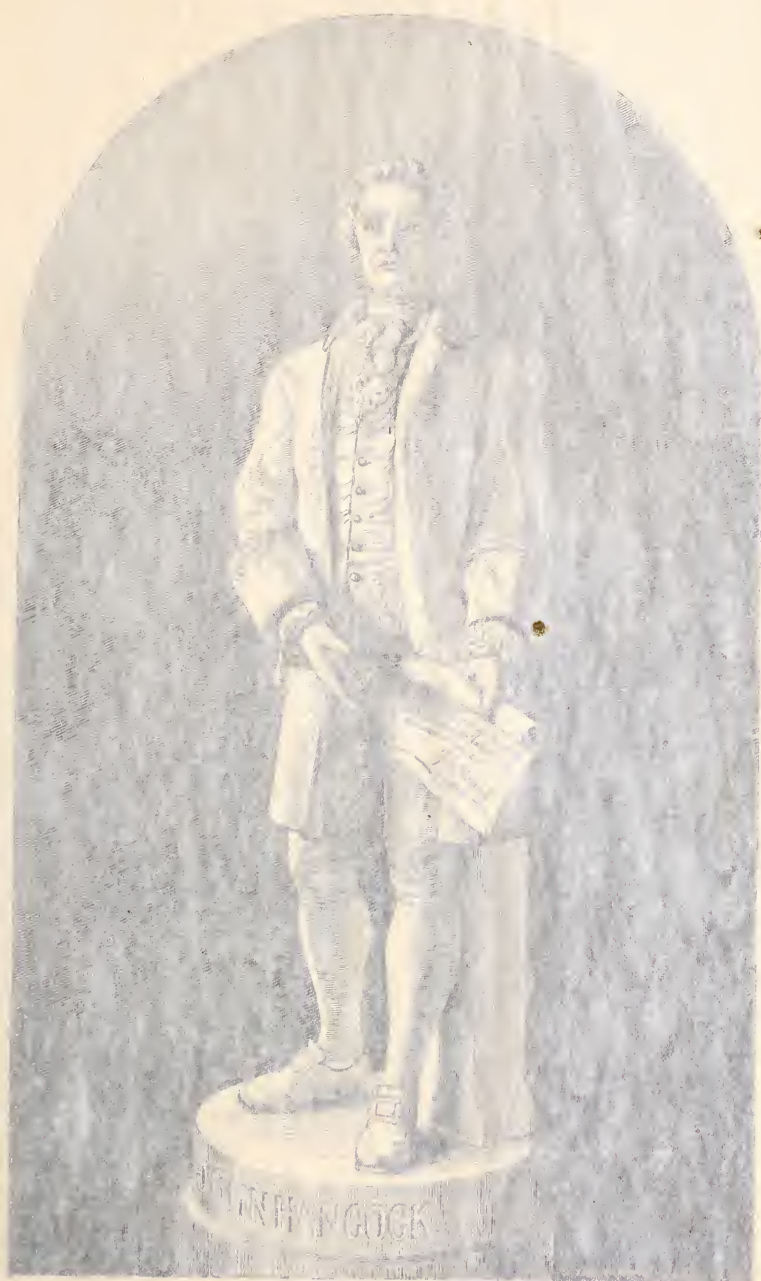
So shall the Future's mystic scroll,
 As silently its years unroll,
 Reveal, in fadeless lustre bright,
 Such names in pure and golden light.
 Her sons, her jewels shall be found :
 Our youthful HUDSON thus be crowned,
 Proudly her rank as peer may claim
 With sister towns long known to fame,
 A polished stone in crystal set
 Within our State's fair coronet :
 New glory for the crown she wears,
 Immortal 'mid the stripes and stars.

JUNE 27, 1876.





THE ORGANIZER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.



THE FIRST SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



THE UNLAWFUL OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.



THE FIRST SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

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